



Page 9 World bats for water cooperation
Page 48 Sachin: The record maker

Headway

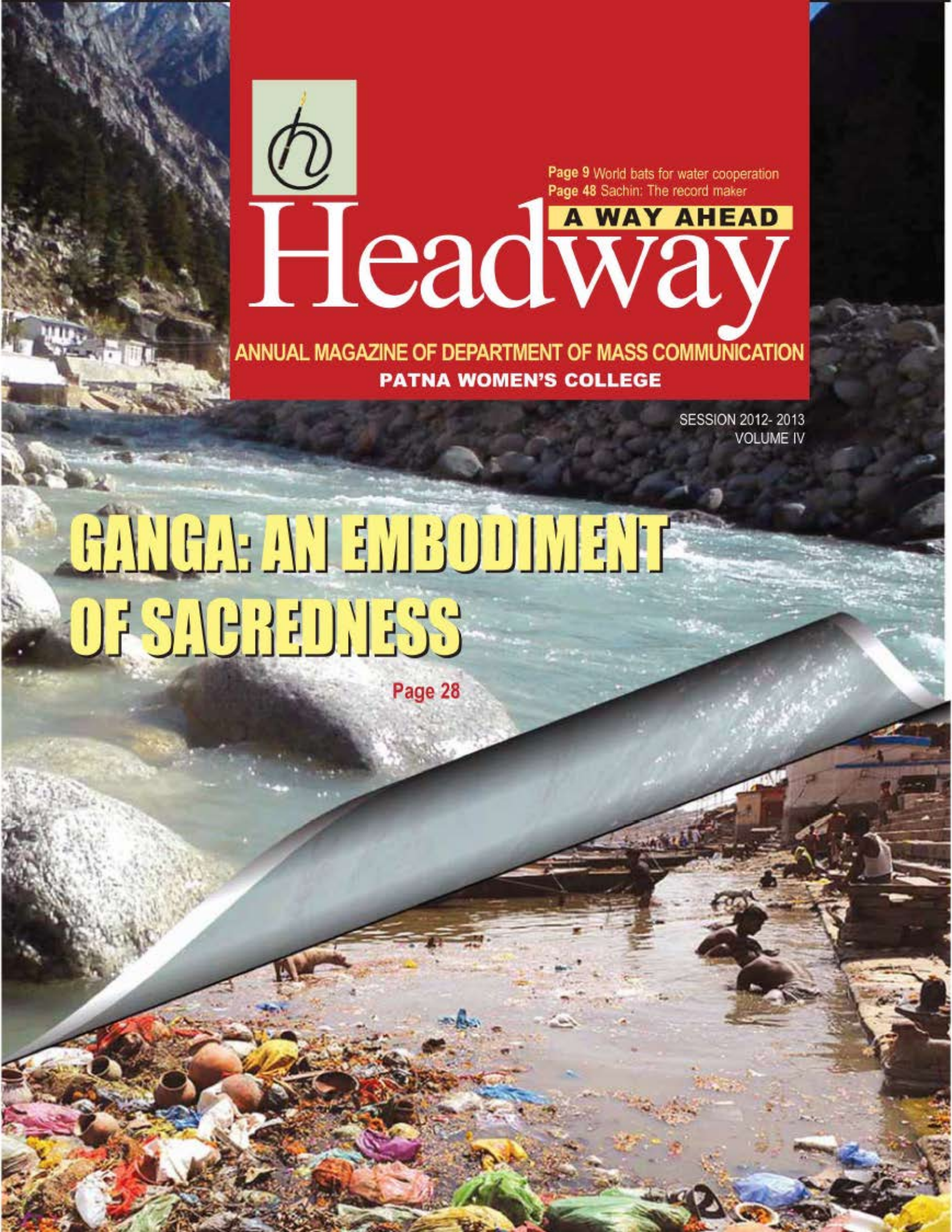
A WAY AHEAD

ANNUAL MAGAZINE OF DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION
PATNA WOMEN'S COLLEGE

SESSION 2012- 2013
VOLUME IV

GANGA: AN EMBODIMENT OF SACREDNESS

Page 28



THE BRAINS BEHIND HEADWAY



It's a pleasure for us to write for the fourth issue of HEADWAY which has truly been a labour of love, art, good writing and publishing by the team involved in the making of the magazine and everyone who supported the magazine in shaping it the way it stands today. HEADWAY has been a journey of sorts. Our race with time started the very moment we entered the final year. The two year anxiety broke as the brainstorming session started followed by selection of chief student editors, student editors, story writers and designers.

There was no looking back even though we kept questioning each other on whether we will make it on time or not.

The foremost decision of selecting the page heads was followed by the flow of stories, reporting, managing related photographs, editing and finally arranging it on the page along with the other stories to make each one distinguished and eye-catching was quite a task.

A lesson well learnt was that magazines give us the opportunity to do whatever we want while designing them as we do not have to follow a particular format.

A journey that began with a four-page journal in 2009 has reached the milestone of 60-page magazine, leaving us with immense satisfaction for the rest of our lives to feel, to express, to share and to BELIEVE.

Standing today with the magazine in our hands that provided us an unparalleled opportunity to express, we have just one message for our juniors: "Dream on, dream on, dream on till your dreams come true..."

EDITORIAL TEAM



Clockwise from bottom left: One of the poster pieces being shown to the students; a page editor going through the print; a facsimile of last three editions of Headway; members of the editorial team with their editor; final touches being given to the product; students discussing layout aspects; student editors in rapt attention at an editorial meeting.

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Dr Sister Doris D'Souza AC.

Headway is a legacy handed down to the students of BMC III, Patna Women's College, by their seniors, the Session 2007-2010 batch that worked innovatively to see it come into being for the first time as a 4-page Annual Lab Journal of the Department of Mass Communication. Launched on 8

April, 2010, in the prestigious Carmel Hall of the College, pages were steadily added every consecutive year by equally dedicated batches and I am extremely happy to see the dream of the students of the department fulfilled in the form of Headway Volume 4 – a full 60-page Annual Magazine.

Headway, as I know, has been a fascinating project to be associated with for every BMC III student. The team and the planning, the ideas and the discussions, the reporting and the deskwork, and importantly, the focus and the dedication of the class as a whole, all very much alongside with their regular curriculum is commendable. I find this to be a radiant outcome of zealous teamwork, a comprehen-

sive desire to present their best abilities in journalism at their level, and in leaving pages of their labour of love to be admired by their juniors as also motivating them to do even better when their turn comes.

I am especially touched that the students under the guidance of the Head of the Department and teachers worked hard and on schedule, had a first round of blueprint ready for my perusal by April. I am glad to see Headway head on as a challenging project of the BMC III students in print journalism, covering a wide range of topics - local, national and international alike. Food, business and health, science and art, fashion and entertainment, serious and lighter

issues see to it that everyone has something to hold them to Headway.

It is my pleasure to appreciate the talent and journalistic efforts of my dear students of BMC III (Session 2010-2013) for working relentlessly in making their dream of a 60-page Annual magazine come true. I thank the Head of the Department, Ms Shampa Sharma and the teachers who helped and encouraged the students, guided and motivated them to reach this milestone and come up with an issue they can be proud of.

I am sure, all our readers will surely appreciate the painstakingly designed and informative magazine: 'The Headway'.

May God bless you all.

EDITOR'S NOTE

In keeping with the United Nations General Assembly resolution, declaring 2013 as the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation, BMC III (Session 2010 - 2013) decided to dedicate this edition of Headway to Water Cooperation. As nations across the globe observed World Water Day on March 22, 2013, the Headway editorial board huddled together to salute the initiative.

Realising intrinsic nature of water as a transversal and universal element, the board decided to touch upon all these aspects in its cover story.

Since India lives around the Ganges, nothing could fit into the bill better than the river Ganga, an embodiment of sacredness and sanctity. Hence, Headway Volume 4 covers the relevance of the pious river, the ill-treatment it faces at dif-

ferent junctures after evolving from the Gangotri glacier and the likely measures to save the enchanting waves that the river creates on its way to the Bay of Bengal.

We hope that the initiative would promote actions at all levels in relevant areas, including education, culture, gender, the sciences, conflict prevention and resolution, as well as ethics, among others.

HEADWAY VOLUME 4: THE TRANSFORMATION INTO A MAGAZINE

Headway has come a long way today and it is a magazine now. When the planning for the proposed magazine had begun, it was a case of making it happen on a day-to-day basis. Through processes, policy and organisational learning, we succeeded in developing systems that are cognizant of the socio-technical

requirements for change.

For the BMC III students, nothing could match success than buoyancy in the classroom which was found in abundance. The product in our possession today is the handiwork of laborious students who burnt the midnight oil to make a difference. It was a roller coaster ride for the budding journalists as the task was massive. A journey that started with just four pages has reached the size of 60pages in just four years. More than 20 sections have been added in this edition of the magazine to make it comparable to any front-line publications in the country.

Headway has travelled miles to reach this far. It has been a pleasant struggle that has helped many of its makers silently. Some of the Headway team members of the pre-



Ms Shampa Sharma

vious issues are today associated with some of the country's leading media organisations. In their success lies the success of Headway.

Hope conquers the world, and at Headway, we hope to come up with a more informative, eye catching and improved product next year to mark the fifth anniversary of the magazine.

Best wishes to our readers.

CONTENTS



Headway

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dr. Sister Doris D'Souza, A.C.

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Samridhi Dikshit
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Surobhi Lahiri

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Sudipta Roy Choudhary

3 SILENT REVOLUTION

- ♦Kisan Chachi: The torchbearer
- ♦From waste to energy
- ♦Arpita Bose: Ray for stray

5 YEAR ROUND-UP

- ♦Travelling against time

9 UN MISSION

- ♦World bats for water cooperation

11 LOCAL ISSUES

- ♦Special status cry gets louder
- ♦Janata Durbar: Bridging the gap
- ♦Bihar's growth march on

17 INVESTIGATIVE

- ♦Minors fall prey to drug racket
- ♦Sex determination rampant
- ♦Saviours do the con
- ♦Perils of fake cosmetics

19 TRAVELOGUE

- ♦Germany: Where history dates the present
- ♦Hand-in-hand to Hyderabad
- ♦Lonavala, Panchgini: Tourists' delight
- ♦Getaway holiday destination

21 NATIONAL

- ♦India opens to world market
- ♦FDI in retail will hit small traders: Modi
- ♦How safe are women in India?
- ♦India's foreign relations

24 EDUCATION

- ♦Rural education
- ♦A ray of hope for poor students
- ♦Sibal exits, Raju enters
- ♦Nalanda University now a reality

26 CREATIVITY AT ITS BEST

- ♦Posters on burning issues



27 LITERATURE

- ♦Book reviews
- ♦e-book revolution
- ♦Novice writers

33 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- ♦How Godly is God Particle
- ♦Latest gadgets

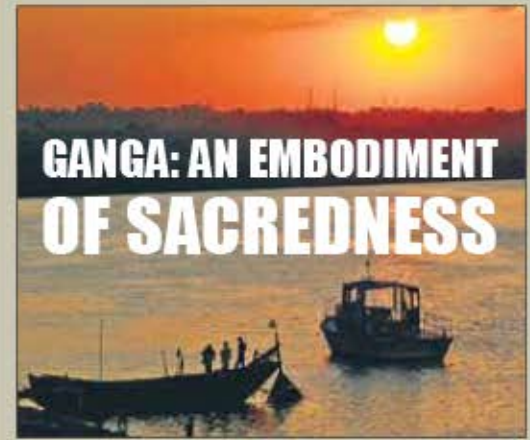
34 ENVIRONMENT

- ♦Nature no more natural
- ♦Bihar goes green
- ♦Mining a menace

35 INTERVIEWS

- ♦Ritika Raj
- ♦Pratyay Amrit

COVER STORY



GANGA: AN EMBODIMENT OF SACREDNESS

28 The mighty Ganga, considered a path for survival, is itself fighting for its existence today. As Ganga moves through the state of Uttar Pradesh, a continuous deterioration in the quality of water can be seen...

36 PHOTO FEATURE

- ♦Tale tellers

37 WORLD

- ♦Barack Obama's second innings
- ♦Jasmine revolution
- ♦Nobel prize winners
- ♦Terrorists wreak havoc
- ♦Economic slowdown hits world

39 GUEST COLUMN

- ♦Dr. Razi Ahmed
- ♦Shivani Tandon
- ♦Pradeep Jain

41 BUSINESS

- ♦Ambani versus Ambani
- ♦What ails AI & Kingfisher?

42 TRIBUTE

- ♦Those who left us in 2012

43 FOOD

- ♦Mouthwatering dishes of Bihar

44 HEALTH

- ♦Net the mosquitoes
- ♦Cervical cancer
- ♦Anorexia & obesity

45 ART & CULTURE

- ♦A tribute to Pandit Ravi Shanker
- ♦Classical music
- ♦Khan brothers at PWC
- ♦College of Arts and Crafts
- ♦Ninad function
- ♦An evening with Hariharan
- ♦Madhubani painting
- ♦Tikuli art
- ♦Street play

47 SPORTS

- ♦Phelps: A flying fish
- ♦Sachin: The record maker
- ♦Dravid, Laxman bid adieu
- ♦T20: Caribbeans rule
- ♦Under 19 India shines
- ♦Down Under
- ♦India at Olympics

55 FASHION AND ENTERTAINMENT

- ♦Dev and Diva
- ♦Pocket size fashion fad
- ♦Heyday for models
- Interview
- ♦Gyan Prakash Agarwal
- ♦Abhinav Kumar
- ♦Sanjana Singh

CAMPUS NOTES

50 PWC: 73 years of glory

- ♦A giant leap for Headway
- ♦A field day for sports women

51 PWC: A lighthouse in dark continent: Konwar

- ♦PWC heads for a sustainable development
- ♦A day dedicated to teachers

52 Mothers... Time to open your eyes

- ♦IRIS comes into being
- ♦Shravani Mahotsava

♦Tricolour fiesta

- 53 Virasat 2012: Song, dance, drama and fun galore for students
- ♦Alumni meet- A journey down memory lane
- ♦Parent-teacher meet at BMC
- ♦Freshers day
- ♦Patriotic song competition

54 Spicmacay tune reverberates PWC

- ♦When Santa brought joy to PWC

KISAN CHACHI: THE TORCHBEARER

The 58-year-old woman has set an example for other farmers, especially those who give up when they face hurdles and take the devastating step of committing suicide. She has proved that when you want something, the entire universe helps you to achieve it



Chandani Kumari

There is an adage that the secret of life is to fall seven times and get up eight times. When we least expect challenges, life tests our courage and willingness to change. At such a moment, there is no point in pretending that nothing has happened or in saying that we are not yet ready.

An ordinary woman, through her hard work and zeal, has managed to make heads turn and look at her. Rajkumari Devi, a simple homemaker, has carved a niche for herself in rural Bihar and is now popularly referred to as 'Kisan Chachi'.

A resident of Anandpur village under Saraiya block in Muzaffarpur district, Kisan Chachi is a perfect example of women empowerment in this otherwise conservative society. With her inquisitive steps in organic farming, she has proved that nothing is

impossible if you have the determination in you.

With just three acres of land at her disposal after she was separated from her in-laws, Kisan Chachi took it to herself to make a difference. She did not lose her willpower to support her financially weak family despite facing all the odds. Even her husband's opposition did not deter her from doing something different.

She started her revolution with papaya and ginger cultivation. The exercise was not easy. However, her efforts bore fruits and she started making profits. Soon, she joined hands with Self Help Groups (SHGs) and encouraged other women to become independent. She created this awareness riding on her bicycle which raised many eyebrows, but could not hinder her determination.

In 1996, she was handpicked by Ms Jyoti

Sinha, a scientist at Agriculture Science Centre, who sent her to Rajendra Agriculture University, Pusa to brush up her knowledge. Under the supervision of experts, she started generating High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds and her constant efforts led her to grow litchi and rose products. After this, there was no looking back for her.

As a result of her hard work, her hand-made products like pickles, jam and jelly were exhibited worldwide and received a tremendous response. Her growing popularity even attracted Bihar Chief Minister Mr Nitish Kumar's attention. He went to the extent of promoting brand 'Kisan Chachi' everywhere.

Sudha Dairy was assigned the task of making the Kisan Chachi's products easily available to every household in the state. In 2006, Kisan Chachi added another feather to her cap when she was felicitated with 'Kisan Shree Award' by Bihar Agriculture Minister Mr Narendra Singh.

A central government agency even made a film on her experiences. The move was aimed at creating awareness among other farmers to go for organic farming. The film is being screened in almost all farmer fairs across the country. Kisan Chachi proved that staying in village does not make her thinking backward. She stood against the infamous dowry system and opposed it during her daughter's marriage and even got 10 widows re-marry.

This 58-year-old woman has set an example for other farmers, especially those who give up when they face hurdles and take the devastating step of committing suicide. She has proved that when you want something, the entire universe conspires in helping you to achieve it. Never should one stop trying because it has been rightly said that the darkest hour of the night comes just before the dawn.

(With additional inputs from Kriti Sonali)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Her growing popularity even attracted Bihar Chief Minister Mr Nitish Kumar's attention. He went to the extent of promoting brand 'Kisan Chachi' everywhere



- Kisan Chachi is a perfect example of women empowerment in this otherwise conservative society
- Her inquisitive steps in organic farming changed the way farmers approach their job in rural Bihar
- She started her revolution with papaya and ginger cultivation
- Today, her hand-made products like pickles, jam and jelly are exhibited worldwide
- In social circles, Kisan Chachi is well known for her stand against infamous dowry system

FROM WASTE TO ENERGY

Prerna Jalan

If there is any hindrance to the state's development march, it's lack of electricity in rural areas. A majority of people are under poverty line with no access to electricity. Under the circumstances, alternate energy is the only way to aid the state's growth target. Here comes the role of Husk Power System (HPS), an affordable way of addressing the shortage of electricity from rice husk. This system is of late emerging as a potential way to generate power at village level.

The man behind this revolution is Mr Gyanesh Pandey, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HPS. Mr Pandey is an electrical engineer who had earned a Master's at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. So determined Mr Pandey was to change the fate of rural Bihar through his innovative idea, that he left a job in the United States and returned to his people.

IT WAS NOT EASY

Life is not a bed of roses. With the initial concept ready, the never-ending research for the right technology started to fit into the rural mould. However, all the options went down the drain. Still, every exit has an entry to a new

path. A mere chance encounter with a Gasifier salesman, Mr Krishna Murari, proved to be a fresh ray of hope in the so far rather frustrating pursuit of Mr Pandey and his friend Mr Ratnesh Yadav. They learnt how several rice millers in the state were using the decades old technology of Biomass gasification to power their mills using Rice Husk – largely a no-good-by-product of their operations.

THE JOURNEY

The first plant was set up in the wilderness of Tamkuha, West Champaran, on August 15, 2007. At the plant, rice husk — a waste product — is converted into combustible gas that drives a small turbine. The initial HPS was designed as a system fuelled by the husk of rice plants – usually discarded after the rice grains are harvested. When heated, rice husks release flammable gas that can be used to power electric generators. The company developed a system that could produce 32 kilowatts of power by burning 50 kilograms of rice husk per hour.

DRIVING AHEAD

The drive for the future run has started. By 2014, HPS plans to serve 6,500 villages, save 7,50,000 tonnes of CO₂ release, create 7,000 local jobs and save \$50M in cash for over 5 million people by replacing kerosene and diesel with its proprietary renewable energy technology. Let's keep our fingers crossed and wish the duo all the luck in the world.



A labourer at work at the plant

THE MAN AND HIS MISSION

PAY-FOR-USE

Nothing in this world comes for free. Maintaining the cost low, the venture is an attraction for the people leading to the success. A lot of people are able to grab this facility which in turn helps in revenue generation and energy supply. About 85-90% of the village homes that have electricity pay Rs 80 a month for a six-hour supply every day. This is enough to charge their mobile phones and turn on two CFL bulbs, which help the children finish their studies for the day and the adults, their household chores and work at shops.



Mr G Pandey

NEVER-ENDING GROWTH

Once started, they never looked back. With just one plant in August 2007, Mr Pandey and Mr Yadav are today proud owners of more than 60 mini power plants. They are rendering power services to more than 25,000 houses and 250 villages, besides lighting the lives of 1, 50,000 rural people.

DREAM COMES TRUE

Mr Pandey turned the dreams of the villagers into reality. The glow of the bulb has got a glow in their lives.

THE SALVATION MANTRA

A good mission can make things work out. HPS uses 3 'Rs' — Reliable, Renewable and Rural — to provide renewable and affordable electricity that serves the world. HPS effectively generates electricity using a biomass gasoliers that creates fuel from rice husk, a waste product of the rice hullers that separate the husk as chaff from the rice, a staple food in the region.

ARPITA BOSE: RAY FOR STRAY

The deadline given by Centre to constitute State Animal Welfare Board (SAWB) in Bihar had expired way back in October 2008. The government is doing nothing tangible even today to constitute the proposed board.

Every end has a beginning. Miss Arpita Bose (pic right), an adherent animal lover, has come as a blessing in disguise with her mission to care for neglected quadruped friends. Miss Bose inherited her love for animals from her parents who always wanted to do something in this regard. She carried it further by establishing Care and Compassion for



Animals (CCA), a welfare organisation for stray, abandoned and wounded animals. Though it started in 1994, CCA became a registered trust on July 4, 1998 with the sole determination of fighting for animal rights.

"CCA had a very healthy start with many enthusiasts but gradually their numbers dwindled. Some simply left, some

died and some left the cause. With them, the plans to create extensive awareness about animal welfare, preventing their cruel treatment, the want of a hospital and a mobile clinic became a distant dream", Bose said. Bose's work did not go unnoticed. She had been made Animal Husbandry Officer of Patna district.

Every year with the help of Dr Mahindra Singh, she provides vaccination and sterilisation to stray dogs. Many a times the regular doses of medicine are mixed along with food so that the animals can be made disease free.

— Trishita Das

A dog lover doc

No matter wherever you are in the world, there will always be something or someone whom you can support and help if you wish to make the world better.

One such person who out of his love for dogs took an inimitable step of feeding the street dogs is Dr Sachidanand Sinha, an ENT specialist practicing and residing in Buddha Colony, Patna. It was way back in 1994 when Dr Sinha's daughter, Gitanjali Sinha, while coming back from school brought a street puppy home and insisted to keep it as a pet. Dr Sinha was then motivated from his daughter's love and compassion for dogs which made him do something for other street dogs too. Today, he is not only taking care of his eight pets, descendants of the same brought by her daughter, but is also into feeding the street dogs twice a day. A large number of dogs are fed daily in a wide area, comprising Buddha Colony, Kidwaipuri, Boring Canal Road and Rajapur. Dr Sinha also feeds about 8 to 10 dogs near Patna Golf Club where he goes to play golf. — Kriti Sonali

BIHAR 2012: A FLASHBACK

The year 2012 was the one of hope and despair. While the state, under Mr Nitish Kumar's leadership, showcased unity in demanding special category status, it also climbed up the ladder when it came to achieving Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. Bihar, one among the four BIMARU states, achieved highest GDP growth rate in the country, much to the delight of the people of state. Brahmeshwar Singh Mukhiya's killing, hooch tragedy, Chhath stampede and Madhubani violence were, however, big dampeners for the state. Headway takes you back to the year that was...

TEXT: SAMRIDHI DIKSHIT

THE HIGHS...

Nitish Pak visit



In November, Chief Minister Mr Nitish Kumar visited Pakistan on an invitation from four provincial governments of the neighbouring country. The chief minister described his visit as 'memorable and successful' and hoped for better Indo-Pak ties. During his stay in Pakistan, Mr Kumar visited several places of historic importance.

Polio eradication



In a major achievement, the state has performed exceedingly well in polio eradication programme. Bihar is on the verge of eradicating the disease forever.

AIIMS Patna

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Patna, formally began classes for 50 MBBS students on its spacious campus in Phulwarisharif locality in the state capital. Fifty students, comprising 37 boys and 13 girls, began their course. Four subjects - anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and community - were taken up initially.



ADHIKAR RALLY: CM CALLS, BIHAR RESPONDS



Bihar Chief Minister Mr Nitish Kumar organised a massive 'Adhikar rally' in Patna on November 4 to put pressure on the Centre for granting special category status to the state. Kumar had also written to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh urging him to grant special status to Bihar, which was low on developmental indices in all core sectors. Kumar also contested a report of inter-ministerial group (IMG), set up by the Prime Minister, which suggested that Bihar's development deficit needed special resource support to overcome economic and infrastructure backwardness, but rejected its plea for special status.

STATE ON GROWTH TRAJECTORY



Bihar's development progress was acknowledged by the Planning Commission which reported that the state recorded 21.9% growth rate during Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12), top most among big states. Bihar was the slowest growing state during 2001-05 period with GDP figure of 2.9%. However, between 2006 and 2010, it grew at 10.9%, becoming the fastest growing state and shedding the tag of BIMARU, an acronym for sick states. Now, it aims to achieve a 13% growth rate in the 12th plan (2012-17).

... AND THE LOWS

Mukhiya murder



Ranvir Sena chief Brahmeshwar Singh alias Mukhiyaji was killed by unidentified gunmen at Katira Mohalla under Nawada police station in Bhojpur district on June 1, 2012. The murder triggered large scale violence in Patna on June 2. During funeral procession, Mukhiya's supporters went berserk and ransacked government properties in the city.

Girl gang raped



A minor girl was allegedly gang raped in the city by five school students and obscene

CDs and MMS of the crime were circulated, according to an FIR lodged by Bihar Women's Commission. The incident took place at Rajvanshi Nagar in Patna on June 14, 2012.

Chhath stampede

At least 20 people were killed in a stampede that took place at Adalatganj ghat in Patna during Chhath festival. The incident took place after a makeshift bamboo bridge collapsed, forcing devotees into a narrow lane.



MAJOR POWER CUT



July 30 was the most 'ominous day' in 2012 when 19 states of India witnessed the decade's worst ever power crisis

for more than 10 hours which affected almost 600 million Indians after three major grids that supply electricity tripped in quick succession. But the irony was that when India was suffering from power outage, the government had been smarting over the 'promotion' of then Power Minister, Mr Sushil Kumar Shinde.

ASSAM RIOTS

Over 87 people were killed, thousands injured and lakhs became homeless in the worst ever riots in Assam. What started as a clash over land acquisition between two communities, snowballed into riots in the strife-torn state. While the minority community

claimed they were descendants of East Bangladesh and brought to Assam during the British Raj, the indigenous Bodos levelled them as migrants. The flames of violence remained confined to the state boundary, but it also affected other states like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.



MARUTI VIOLENCE



The dispute at Maruti's Manesar plant left one dead and over

100 managers injured. Senior Human Resource Executive of the plant, Awanish Kumar Dev, was burnt alive by a violent mob of factory workers. The violence broke out due to alleged disparity in salary of permanent and non-permanent workers. They were demanding three-fold increase in wages, a monthly conveyance allowance of Rs 10,000, a laundry allowance of Rs 3,000 and incentives when a car is launched and free accommodation.

PREZ ELECTION

UPA's candidate and former Finance Minister Mr Pranab Mukherjee won the presidential election with 69% votes. Mr Mukherjee took oath at the Rashtrapati Bhawan after defeating his opponent, Mr Purno



Agitok Sangma, a veteran parliamentarian backed by the BJP. Mr Mukherjee secured 527 votes against 206 votes for Mr Sangma out of 748 MPs who voted in the election. On July 25, 2012, Mr Mukherjee took over as India's 13th Head of State and acquired the 14th Presidential Office.

EVENTFUL YEAR FOR INDIA

TEXT: FARYAL RUMI



2012 has been an eventful year for India. In politics, this was a year of elections. Uttar Pradesh saw a change of guard with the Samajwadi Party wresting power back from the Bahujan Samaj Party. In Gujarat, Narendra Modi continued with his good performance and returned to power



yet again. India also had its best outing in the Olympics this year. It won six medals at the mega showdown although it finished last in hockey. The year also saw the demise of a number of personalities from various walks of life. The last fortnight of the year, however, shamed the country



when a young girl was brutally gang raped and assaulted in a moving bus in New Delhi. She later died in a Singapore hospital. The incident sparked widespread protests across the country, with people, especially youngsters, taking to the streets to vent their ire.

GEETIKA-FIZA



The news of two deaths -- that of Anuradha Bali alias Fiza and Geetika Sharma - in Haryana in the same month of August was enough to chill the blood. These cases depicted the darkest side of politicians who in the name and sake of love and relationships, brutally crushed the trust of innocent women.

KASAB HANGED

After four years imprisonment, 26/11 Mumbai attacker Mohammed Ajmal Kasab was hanged to death on November 21, 2012 at a Pune jail. Kasab and his associates had shaken peace and harmony of Mumbai by killing hundreds of people. Even Sonia Gandhi was apparently not aware of the instant decision of Kasab's capital punishment.



SET-TOP BOX

The Union ministry of information and broadcasting implemented cable TV digitization in Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai from October 31, 2012. Till now, it has achieved over 80% digitization in four metros and is targeting 38 cities in 15 states by 31 March 2013.



MAMATA'S GAME



After three years' association with UPA 2, Trinamool Congress finally withdrew support from the Union Government. The sudden withdrawal of TC support after the implementation of FDI, reduced the strength of UPA 2 in the Lok Sabha to 254, as 19 members had abstained from voting. "TC never received any respect from the Congress despite being the second largest partner in the UPA," Mamata said.

FALAK'S MISERY

The nation cried over the misery and pain of a toddler named Baby who underwent five operations and suffered three consecutive heart attacks which led to her death at Apollo Hospital in New Delhi in March 2012. Baby Falak was brought to hospital by a teenage girl on 18 January, 2012 with serious injuries, including human bite marks all over her body.



2012: GLOBAL MEMOIRS

HURRICANE SANDY



Sandy was blamed for 120 deaths in several states, mostly in New York and New

Jersey, and it was the most devastating natural disaster since Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005. The storm ripped apart the New Jersey shore and parts of the New York City area coastline, leaving thousands homeless. The storm destroyed more than 72,000 homes and businesses in New Jersey. In New York, 3,05,000 housing units were damaged and more than 2,65,000 businesses were affected.

SKYDIVER



An Austrian daredevil leapt into the stratosphere from a balloon near the edge of space 24 miles

above Earth and safely landed, setting a record for the highest skydive and breaking the sound barrier in the process. Cheers broke out as Felix Baumgartner, 43, jumped from a skateboard-sized shelf outside the 11-by-8-foot (3.3-by-2.4 metre) fiberglass and acrylic capsule that was carried higher than 128,000 feet by an enormous balloon.

COSTA CONCORDIA DISASTER



Thirty-two people died after the Costa Concordia cruise ship ran aground with more than 4,000 passengers and crew on January 13, only hours after leaving the Italian port of Civitavecchia. The ship is holed on the left-hand side, starts taking on water and begins to tilt. Engine rooms are flooded and power is lost.



The year has faded away, leaving behind fresh memories. 2012 was a pulsating year globally, having both gloomy and happy moments. It's time to scroll down the year and relive the days

US SHOOTOUT

A heavily armed gunman opened fire at a Connecticut Elementary School, killing 28 people including 20 children, in the latest in a series of shooting rampages across the United States in 2012. There were 28 deaths in Connecticut - 20 children and seven adults from the school and another person connected to the suspect at a house in Newtown. The total included the shooter, who media said was a 24-year-old man. The gunman killed himself at the scene.



TEXT: SUNANDA JHA

BULLET TRAIN



China inaugurated world's longest high-speed rail route linking its capital Beijing with the southern metropolis

of Guangzhou, covering a distance of 2,298 km. Running at an average speed of 300 km per hour, the bullet train will save nearly 12 hours by bringing down the travel time between Beijing and Guangzhou from more than 20 hours to around eight.

EUROPE COLD MENAGE



At least 83 people died in Ukraine from a cold spell that gripped the country, BBC reported. Temperatures as low as minus 23 degrees Celsius and heavy snow-

fall in December left the capital Kiev and most of the country under a thick frozen layer. In the western part of the country, vehicles were trapped in a three-day traffic jam stretching at one point about 20 km. The severe weather has also affected neighbouring Bulgaria and Romania, where six people were reported dead.

IRELAND ABORTION ROW



Ireland announced it will legalise abortions when the mother's life is at risk, weeks after the death of Indian dentist Savita

Halappanavar who died after being refused an abortion in the European country. The decision comes after a huge public outcry over the death of 31-year-old Savita, who died on October 28 at Galway University Hospital. She had been 17-week pregnant and was found to be miscarrying. Savita's husband said she asked repeatedly for a termination of the pregnancy but was refused and was told the foetal heartbeat was still present and "this is a Catholic country".



ARMSTRONG SHAME

Lance Edward Armstrong, the US cyclist, was diagnosed with testicular cancer in October 1996 and recovered within one year. He made an outstanding comeback in cycling. During a US Federal investigation into doping allegations in 2011, it was found that Armstrong was using drugs to enhance his performance. In August 2012, US Anti Doping Agency (USADA) banned him for lifetime from all competitions and took back all the titles he won since August 1998.



WISHY RETAINS CROWN

The World Chess Championship took place between May 10 and May 30, 2012 in Moscow, Russia. The final match was held between defending world champion Viswanathan Anand of India and Boris Gelfand of Israel, winner of the 2011 Candidates Tournament. After 16 games, including four rapid games, Anand retained his title. Boris Gelfand became the challenger in 2012 after winning the eight-player 2011 Candidates Tournament. Anand's subsequent victory, therefore, was his third consecutive title defence.

2012: A MIXED BAG FOR WORLD OF SPORT

The year began with a bang for India with the country's athletes making it big in Olympics. The elation, however, did not last long. In a major setback, the International Olympic Committee banned Indian Olympic Association for not adhering to their norms while electing members for the new body. The year was a big disappointment for cricket fans with India losing eight Tests in a row against England and Australia. In tennis also, difference between parent body and some key players hogged the limelight. *Tanya Singh* and *Kripa Kasyp Singh* collect the flashback pieces.

SACHIN'S TON OF TONS

Sachin Tendulkar scored his 100th international century for India in March 2012. He became the first player of the world to score 100 centuries in total in first class cricket. The master blaster achieved the feat in an ODI match against Bangladesh in Dhaka. Sachin had to wait for his 100th century for almost one year after his 99th century, against South Africa in March 2011.



INDIA-ENGLAND TESTS



India versus England Series, 2012 was played

between October 30, 2012 and January 27, 2013. The tour consisted of four test matches, five ODIs and two T20 matches. England won the series 2-1. India, however, bounced back in the ODI series, defeating England 3-2. However, in the two-match T20 series, the two sides shared the honour.

INDIAN GRAND PRIX



The 2012 Formula One Airtel marked the second edition of the Indian Grand Prix.

Sebastian Vettel was the winner. Held on October 28, 2012 at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India, the race was the 17th round of the 2012 championship.



FRENCH OPEN

Tennis Grand Slam and the 111th edition of French Open was held between May 27 and June 11. Maria Sharapova won the final very comprehensively. In the men's singles, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal competed for the prestigious Clay Court Trophy Nadal played a fine game and defeated Djokovic.



US OPEN

The US Open 2012 was played between August 27 and September 7, 2012 at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows Park, New York City, USA. Andy Murray became the first British man (since Fred Perry in 1936) to win a Grand Slam singles title and the first man to win both the US Open and the Olympic Men's singles gold medal in 2012. In the Women's singles, Serena Williams won her fourth US Open title and first since 2008, by defeating Victoria Azarenka in the final. Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan won Men's doubles and Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci won Women's doubles.



EURO 2012

The 2012 European football championship, commonly referred to as EURO 2012 was the 14th European championship for national football teams. The final tournament was hosted for the first time by Poland and Ukraine, between June 8 and July 1, 2012. The final match was held at the Olympic stadium in Kiev, where Spain defeated Italy 4-0.

UN CALLS FOR WATER EDUCATION



**Prerna Jalan, Samridhi Dikshit,
Shruti Shiksha, Kriti Sonali**

In December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2013 as the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation. In reflection of this declaration, the 2013 World Water Day, which took place on March 22, 2013, was dedicated to water cooperation.

The objective of this International Year is to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services. The year will highlight the

The objective of this International Year is to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges facing water management

history of successful water cooperation initiatives, as well as identify burning issues on water education, water diplomacy, transboundary water management, financing cooperation national/international legal frameworks

and the linkages with the Millennium Development Goals. It will also provide an opportunity to capitalise on the momentum created at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and to support the formulation of new objectives that will contribute towards developing water resources that are truly sustainable.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation published a 909-page report titled 'United

WORLD BATS FOR WATER COOPERATION

HOPE FLOATS



The UNESCO report provides case studies to argue for water banking for surface water and groundwater.



Even students of different schools across the country pitched in to promote the initiative of the United Nations.

Nations World Water Development Report 4: Managing Water under Uncertainty and Risk'.

Citing a World Bank document of 2009, this three volume report says: "The National Ganga River Basin Authority in India, with the financial support of the World Bank, launched a programme in 2009 to clean the Ganges, to ensure that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluents would be discharged into the river by 2020. Previous action plans did not improve the health of the river, in which almost 95% of the pollution is caused by sewers and open drains. This time the governmental approach has moved from a town centric approach to a broader river basin approach..."

The report states that the treatment of Ganga Basin, the largest river basin of the country which has catchment in 11 states, leaves a lot to be desired. The report fails to enlist

any achievement of the authority that was set up in February 2009. It does not scrutinise whether or not the promised 'broader river basin approach' has indeed been adopted. It does not dwell on the split personality of the bank either.

The bank has been undertaking contradictory projects in the Ganga basin without any sense of accountability. It depletes water quality of Ganga by supporting dams upstream and it provides loans for improvement of water quality in its downstream.

The year will provide an opportunity to capitalise on the momentum created at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

GOVT APPROACH MOVES FROM TOWN TO **BROADER RIVER BASIN**



WORLD BATS FOR WATER COOPERATION

A situation is emerging where instead of providing assured safe drinking water as matter of right, right to purchase bottled water is being pushed. Despite this both national efforts and UN reports do not suggest anything to reverse the trend to save the ecosystem and its fluid for the present and future generations. Wedded to market socialism, China may have forgotten the lessons of free trade in opium, India and Indians cannot afford to allow free trade in water

mately 1.2 billion people, over half of whom live in India, defecate in the open. This has been snobbishly articulated a billion times. The report's colossal failure lies in not documenting and comparing the water footprint of those who defecate in open and those who defecate within their own houses. It shows that the authors are offering platitudes and prejudiced observations and hiding the sins of those who defecate in closed spaces. This dereliction happened perhaps due to class affinity.

The release of the UNESCO report a few months prior to the Rio+20 Earth Summit could indeed have provided a sound basis for discussions on the future of our planet and water's centrality in it, had it not caved in under the influence of international, financial institutions, entities like the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the World Resources Institute, their The Access Initiative and Coca Cola. It has provided quite an unsound basis to comprehend and initiate steps to protect the ecological space of water. Most importantly, it has failed in ambition.

If one compares the 522 page report of the Western Ghats ecology expert panel of the Union environment & forests ministry for south and western India, one will find the poverty of ecological imagination of authors of the UNESCO's report. The Indian panel advocates a graded or layered approach, with regulatory as well as promotional measures appropriately fine-tuned to local ecological and social contexts within the broad framework by fine-tuning through a participatory process going down to gram sabhas. Now that Ganga River Basin Authority and Mekong River Commission has proven itself to be too weak to safeguard the ecological

integrity of river basins, the report of the Western Ghats panel creates a compelling logic for a high-powered panel both at national and international level to adopt a similar approach in dealing with ecological and natural resources in order to set matters right in the global eco system outside the 'piped and bottled water framework'.

UNESCO's report refers to India's National Water Mission as a part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (2008) which is identifying several strategies to tackle climate change and achieve water-related goals. "The main goals are to create a comprehensive water database and proper public awareness and education campaigns, shift focus on overexploited areas, increase water use efficiency by 20% and promote Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) on a basin level," observes the report. Such uncritical reproduction of official documents like the mission document ignores the parochial approach of the authors of the report. They have failed to comprehend the stark democracy deficit in the process of creating it.

Citing a Planning Commission document of 2002, it says, "Water supply is a state responsibility, but various ministries share responsibility at central and state levels... Local governments are increasingly turning operating and maintenance responsibilities to private companies." The report is attempting to build a case for privatisation of water by selectively citing bank-influenced documents of the Planning Commission. It fails to record the failure of private water companies who are engaged in direct water trade through pipes and bottles, in tankers and vessels, and indirectly or 'virtually' through products.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

The second volume of Environmental and Social Management Framework for Bank assisted National Ganga River Basin Project document says, "The Ganga basin (which also extends into parts of Nepal, China and Bangladesh) accounts for about 26% of India's landmass, 30% of its water resources, and more than 40% of its population."

If the bank knew that Ganga basin is an international river basin, how did it choose to refer to it as 'national'? The UNESCO's report like the bank fails to comprehend that both Ganga and Mekong are trans-boundary rivers of the Himalayan watershed.

The UNESCO report states that approxi-

Sunanda Jha and Sabeela Rasheed

If infrastructure development was chief minister Mr Nitish Kumar's priority in his first term, fast tracking the process with Centre's aid is his mission in the second term. His crusade to ensure special status for Bihar has gained momentum, with people of the state joining in the movement.

Kumar has been campaigning for special status to ensure private investments in the state and larger access to central funds.

With Planning Commission deputy chairman Mr Montek Singh Ahluwalia recently assuring the state of considering the demand, there is a ray of hope. It appears that the sea of people at Gandhi Maidan at Mr Nitish Kumar's Adhikar rally succeeded in convincing the Centre to give a serious thought to the state's decade-old demand.

In his recent memorandum submitted to Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, the CM said: "Special status will offer people



SPECIAL STATUS CRY GETS LOUDER

hope for a quality life and gainful employment for its very young population. We wish to become

partners, agents and contributors in India's growth momentum."

Justifying his demand for

special status, he said other financially backward states also had 'valid right' to seek additional aid from the Centre. "Bihar will continue to plead for special status." Kumar had announced in Adhikar Rally.

He appealed to the people to vote only for the party that would promise to deliver the special category status in the 2014 general elections.

Kumar said Bihar, a landlocked state with no sea route, is finding it difficult to catch up with national development indices in the absence of incentives it would get as a special category state.

Earlier, the Centre had made it clear that Bihar does not qualify for special category status. It said bowing to such demands would spark off similar demands from other states and make it difficult to balance them.

Adding more states would mean that the states would end up getting less from the central pool leading to 'development distortions', they said.

TUG OF WAR BETWEEN STATE AND CENTRE INTENSIFIES OVER SPECIAL STATUS

11 SPL CATEGORY STATES

Eleven states enjoy special category status including Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand. Six are UTs and 18 states including Bihar are in general category. Assam, Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir were accorded special status under the Gadgil Formula in 1969.

PARAMETERS

To get special category status, a state needs to fulfill a set of five indicators. They include hilly and difficult terrain, low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population, strategic location along borders with neighboring countries, economic and infrastructural backwardness, and non-viable nature of state finances.

BENEFITS

Centre offers financial incentives to promote setting up of industries to states under special category.

Other states get 30% of central aid as grants.

BIHAR'S STAND

On criteria of hilly, difficult terrain Bihar has been the most flood-prone state (28 out of 38 districts) in the country. About 68,800 square kilometres are affected by flood caused by a number of rivers. Besides, the 2008 Kosi tragedy, Bihar witnessed big floods in 1978, 1987, 1998, 2004 and 2007. The Centre failed to reach meaningful arrangement with successive governments in Nepal and resource-strapped Bihar was left to face the economic consequences.

LOW POPULATION

North Bihar is one of the most densely populated areas of the country and its huge population imposes enormous pressure on infrastructure and social services. This extremely high density of population is perhaps a large disability in the context of Bihar than the scanty population in the special category states. It has got the

highest percentage of population below poverty line (56%) as indicated by Tendulkar Committee.

STRATEGIC BORDERS

Bihar has reiterated that it has 729 kms of international border while Assam has only 530 kms, Himachal Pradesh even lower at 201 kms, not to speak of the smaller international borders of Manipur, Meghalaya or Sikkim. Bihar needs to develop the required infrastructure like roads along the border to tackle subversive activities and infiltration along the international borders, which have been regular in recent years.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The route kilometer of per lakh population in Bihar is only 4.24 while it is double in the case of Assam (8.57) and Himachal Pradesh (4.89). It is comparable to both Tripura and Uttarakhand. The average grid length of National Highways is less. The per capita electricity consumption of Bihar

(122.21 units) is about 1/7th of national per capita consumption level of 778.71 units. Compared to others, Bihar also has lowest tele-density.

STATE FINANCES

The non-plan and plan grants of the Centre do not mean special favour. Bihar's own tax revenue as percentage of GSPD is only 4.80%, significantly lower than Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Uttarakhand. Bihar's per capita income (at constant prices) has a gap of 60.27% when compared to the national average at the end of 11th plan, which cannot be bridged without special measures.



JANATA DURBAR

BRIDGING
THE GAP

First Monday for police and law-and-order, second for health and education, third for electricity, road and water related problems and fourth for meeting of the party members, CM's Janata Durbar is creating a revolution. *Anu Meha, Anamika Sinha, Faryal Rumi, Nancy Priya and Vishakha Priya* cover the proceedings of the CM's path-breaking initiative for Headway



Even scorching heat, thunderstorm and chilling winter fail to dampen the spirit of people who make a beeline for 1, Aney Marg, chief minister Mr Nitish Kumar's official residence, every Monday to attend Janata Durbar. Braving hurdles and tiring security checks, they come here with a piece of paper in their hands describing their grief and winking eyes full of hope. Standing in queue, they wait to get the green card (15-digit registration card) to enter the foyer.

To interact directly with the people of the state, the CM had launched his path-breaking weekly 'Janata Ke Darbar me Mukhya Mantri' programme for the first time in June 2006. The concept of Janata Durbar is inspired from the ones of Feudal period when kings used to meet their people and redress their problems by hearing them. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Mr Lalu Prasad was the first to introduce it in Bihar, but it is better implemented and conducted by Mr Kumar.

The Bihar Public Grievances Redressal System (BPGRS), another initiative of the state government to connect to rural masses, recently won the prestigious 'Silver Icon Award' and 'Web Ratna' from the Union Ministry of Communication. Under the initiative, Mukhiyas hear patiently to the people's grievances related to education, health, social welfare, minority welfare and SC/ST welfare departments.

A wailing octogenarian woman from Gauryasthan had come asking for financial assistance to rebuild her house. After she met the CM, the officials assured her of looking into the matter.

Same was the appeal of Rashmi Gupta, 19, from Ara, whose father was shot by three anti-social elements. Her mother died few

LEADER OF MASSES

○The CM had launched his weekly 'Janata Ke Darbar me Mukhya Mantri' programme for the first time in June 2006

○The concept of Janata Durbar is inspired from the ones of Feudal period when kings used to meet their people and redress their problems by hearing them

○The motto of Mr Kumar behind holding 'Janata Durbar', is to establish a trustworthy relation with the people of the state

○A sense of contentment to meet the CM is visible on the faces of people



years ago and she is the only one to look after her younger brother. Her father is critical and his kidney is damaged. The operation cost rose to 1.5 lakh in two days which she had borrowed from her relatives and now she is penniless to bear the further expenses.

With immense pain in her eyes, she said, "We are poor and doctors don't coordinate with us. They ask for money or threaten to discontinue my father's treatment".

The motto of Mr Kumar behind holding 'Janata Durbar', was to establish a trustworthy relation with the people of the state. To make this Herculean task easier, there is division of issues, department-wise. For instance, first Monday for police and law-and-order, second for health and education,

third for electricity, road and water related problems and fourth is kept for meeting of the party members. Remarkably, this initiative has brought smiles to faces of many, but there are still some for whom doomsday is still awaited.

Minnati Devi, 56, is coming here since August 2012 with her complaint. Her husband, Rakesh Kumar, who retired in 2009 has not yet received pension. He is paralytic and had recently suffered brain hemorrhage.

"My husband was posted in Patna with agricultural department and was later transferred to Begusarai a few months before retiring. Now I am running between both the places asking for pension," she said.

Pankaj Kumar, CM's security expert, who witnesses the agony of people at the Durbar, says the CM tries to solve everyone's problem, but at times bureaucrats take time to act promptly.

Bihar is achieving new heights in terms of development, but Mr Saurav Kumar, an employee of Smaarftech Technology Pvt. Ltd., an IT Company, believes that there is still much to be done to lure investors and regain their trust. Aggrieved of corruption, he has come here complaining that the Rural Development Department has not cleared his company's pending bills worth Rs 10 crores. He is not receiving salary from the past eight months. "My 300 co-employees are suffering like me. This is my first visit to Janata Durbar and I hope this will turn in our favour," he said with a smile.

Whether one's trouble is rectified or not, but a sense of contentment to meet the CM is visible on the faces of people at the exit gate. This is what democracy should be as quoted by Abraham Lincoln, "government by the people, of the people, for the people".

BIHAR'S GROWTH MARCH ON

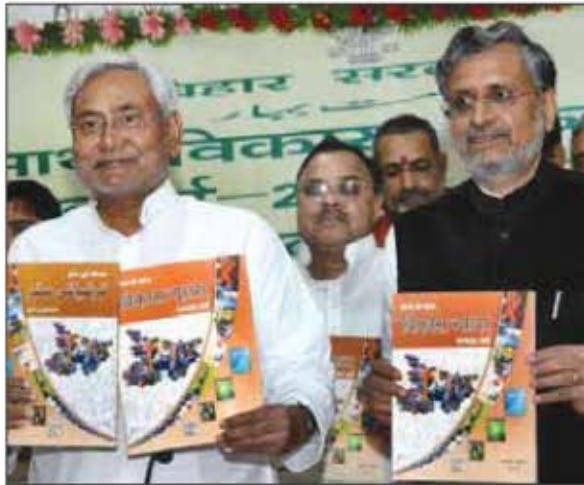
Sunanda Jha, Shubhra Ghosh and Ankita

Seven years and still going strong.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government in Bihar has just completed seven years in office. The state, earlier infamous for misgovernance, has undergone sea of changes under the leadership of Mr Nitish Kumar. While innumerable road projects have improved rural connectivity, the government's thrust on girl education has changed the way people approach the fair sex in the state. Power, however, remains a big concern for the government. With many power projects in the offing in Bihar, there is a ray of hope among people.

Holding his head high, Mr Kumar released the seventh report card of NDA in November 2012, highlighting the achievements of the government in various fields like agriculture, health, education, tourism, power generation and infrastructure.

Under the newly announced Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana scheme, in the next 5 years the government will construct 34,116 km of road with an esti-



mated expenditure of Rs 23,881 crores. Admitting that the government's biggest challenge is to ensure overall development in the state, Mr Kumar said only a few districts in the state have so far tasted growth. He said the Centre should change its current economic policy for inclusive growth of backward states.

The CM said his government's anti-corruption measures will continue. "More properties of corrupt officials would be seized under the Anti Graft Law as the government is opting zero tolerance policy against corruption," he maintained.

Bihar has introduced a slew of path-breaking meas-

ures to fight corruption. The new Lokayukt Act that will bring CM, legislators and public servants under its ambit, is an example. Mr Kumar emphasised that special category status would pave the way for big ticket investment along with industrialisation in the state.

The CM said he will not ask for votes in next election if he failed to improve power situation. The CM announced linking of 250 village habitats with well constructed road under the new scheme, 'Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojna'. Bihar is set to convert the challenges into opportunities.

A WASTEFUL EXERCISE: LALU

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) President Mr Lalu Prasad termed the presentation of report card as a "wasteful exercise". "Law and order and education system have crumbled in the state under the NDA government...Nitish should have sought apology in the report card over cases of rape of women," he said, adding that the CM was "befooling" people in the name of development.

Congress and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) also criticised the NDA government for 'chanting' development mantra in the state. Reacting to the report card, LJP President Mr Ram Vilas Paswan said, "It was nothing but a bundle of lies."

State Congress President Mr Chaudhary Mehboob Ali Kaiser said, "The report card is only a paperwork. People are protesting against him on the streets as the law and order situation has deteriorated in the state."

CPI, CPI(M) and CPI-ML also disagreed with the claims of development made by Nitish government.



THE GOVERNMENT'S POSTMORTEM

GOVERNANCE

Under Right to Public Service Act, 2011 almost 2.5 crore applications have been disposed. Now people can avail 52 types of services from local administrative centres, the government claims



AGRICULTURE



Agricultural road map 2012-17 aims at ensuring growth in agricultural and allied sectors. This will enhance crop production, dairy development, animal husbandry, fisheries, irrigation capacity, forest and environment.

ROAD

With setting up of 35 kilometre of roads daily, Bihar is making faster strides on the path of development. A total of 34,116 kilometre of roads would be built under the Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojna in the next five years at the cost of Rs 23,881 crore.



HEALTH



Maternal and infant mortality rate reduced. No case of polio in last two years.

Fasten your belts for a dream drive

Chandani Kumari, Anamika Singh

A far-fetched dream now seems a reality with the approval of the much awaited Ganga Expressway project by the state government.

Modelled on the lines of Mumbai's Marine Drive, this 40-kms Expressway will connect Digha to Didarganj (a 21-km stretch).

The proposed project would come up in an area of 200 hectares of land and cost over Rs 2,234 crore. Two-thirds of the expressway would be built with 100% government funding and the rest by a private developer. It has attracted eight construction companies, including Gammon, Nagarjun and Reliance to take up the challenge of completing the project in the next three years.

"Companies have submitted quotations for the project, we hope to start the work by next year and the project would be completed by 2016," said Bihar Road Construction Minister Mr Nand Kishore Yadav.

Barriers come hand in hand with ideas. Similarly, this project has also suffered a major setback. None of the companies that were selected participated in the final bid forcing the state government to order a review. Out of six companies that submitted their technical bid, two companies backed out and one was rejected on technical grounds. The state government requested the remaining three companies — Reliance Infrastructure, Gammon India and Navyuga Constructions — to submit their financial bids. However, none of them showed up.

The proposed project will come up in an area of 200 hectares of land and cost over Rs 2,234 crore.

Two-thirds of the expressway would be built with 100% government funding and the rest by a private developer

Mr Yadav admitted that none of the shortlisted companies came forward for the project. The project was to be developed on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT-toll) mode and there was a provision for a maximum of 40% financial assistance to make the road viable for the bidders. Out of 12 firms who responded to the expression of interest floated for the Ganga Expressway project, nine were shortlisted for financial bidding stage but none submitted the financial bid.

The reluctance of the bidders towards the project has delayed the initial plan of starting the project by year end. The State Government is blaming the global slowdown for the same.

"We are not at all happy," said Mr Yadav, "however, it's not our fault. The world is going through a financial slowdown; it is a big project, which would require almost Rs 1,400 crore investment from our private partner. This type of money is very hard to come these days. This is why, we received such response. However, we are now evaluating other



options as well," he added

However, there is another face to the picture according to some officials; companies were asking for major concessions, toll booths at shorter distances, development of tourist spots to increase traffic and extension of collection period from the state government. But the state government was not ready to go beyond the Government of India's guidelines which are resulting in decreasing interest from the private companies.

The hope is still not lost. The state government has now ordered for a review, to be done by Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam.

"We have asked for a review because we want new options. We will not abandon the project. If necessary, the state government can develop this project with its own fund. However, the PPP route is also open. We will decide after the final report of the Nigam, which will come in two months," said the minister. However, he accepted that now the project would not be ready by 2015 which was the initial scheduled time.





Indian Institute of Technology, Patna and (right) Chandragupta Institute of Management, Patna.

PATNA TURNS INTO EDUCATION HUB

Anamika Sinha, Anu Meha, Soumita Ghoshal and Vishakha Priya

With an academic institute of world class repute and branches of NIFT and AIIMS in place, Patna is fast becoming a hub for higher education. Students from diverse background are taking keen interest to join these colleges. The newly established IIT-Patna is also drawing the attention of students countrywide.

Chandragupta Institute of Management in Patna is one of the few institutes helping students think big. This institute has collaborated with UNESCO to provide a platform to experiment with the innovations in research and development and synergize scientific knowledge and management perspectives on the emerging challenges of environment and development. The students studying over here have a sheer determination to work for the development of Bihar. These institutes at Patna are inculcating great ideas and business acumen to students. The sole aim is to encourage them in undertaking social entrepreneur activity. Thus, it will help in generating multiple avenues of employment and wealth creation.

The government's ambitious "Scientific Foresight" programme aspires to develop scientific temperament and promote innovation in society. The initiative is inspiring students to take up research. It is drawing attention from the seasoned professionals, established entrepreneurs

and creative minds.

"You cannot make higher education flourish without strengthening primary education," Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen had once said. It is very true, in order to make a concrete building the base needs to be strong. The government programmes like 'School Chale Hum' succeeded in luring children to school. It has set a benchmark of sending many students to class rooms. Another very popular programme of Chief Minister Mr Nitish Kumar was equipping girl students with bicycles. The scheme attracted many parents to send their daughters to school. Hence, these measures will help in laying stones for higher education.

People from various walks of life have

started new projects and ventures as Bihar today encourages investments to boost the economy. Service sectors such as telecom, retail and insurance are opening their outlets in Patna. It is heartening to know that companies like Reliance, HDFC, IBM Daksh and WIPRO are coming to Bihar for recruiting youths.

History says that Bihar has been a major centre for learning as well as home to ancient universities of Nalanda and Vikramshila. Unfortunately, the trend has not continued because of rampant corruption and other malpractices prevailing in higher education in the state. This has led to massive migration of student community from the state, though the present government is toiling hard to bring back the laurels. Bihar has the potential to provide higher education in future. It can be substantiated as Bihar is one of the fastest growing economies with 11% GDP growth rate for 5 years. Bihar is one of the better governed states in the country. It can transform itself into an educational hub because of the opening of Central University and Nalanda University in near future.

There is a saying that behind every dark cloud there is a silver lining. Nowadays people are feeling proud to wear on their sleeves the tag of a Bihari. The reason behind this is the development and despite dark and turbulent times, the fortune of the state is changing. A time may soon come when Bihar will be looked upon as a destination for higher education.



National Institute of Fashion Technology is functioning from one of the floors of Udyog Bhawan.

TANTALISING TRENDS OF PATNA

DIARA PICNIC SPOT

Want to enjoy cold breeze and even cooler sands, watch the setting sun from the lap of Ganga? To make this come true, the tourism department has planned once again to make the necessary arrangements on the Ganga diara. People often come to Ganga to take holy bath/dip but Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation (BSTDC) has opened a picnic area in Diara, on the other side of the Ganges.

It is situated in an area of 24000 square feet, having three thatched cabanas, six sitting area, and a food court offering snacks. BSTDC already operate floating restaurant, M V Ganga Vihar from Gandhi Ghat. The picnic area remains open between 2 PM to 5 PM. On a beautiful day, the experience at this beach can be wonderful. The horizon of Patna City is beautifully visible from here.

DISCOTHEQUE

For the "Disco deewanes" of the city, "The Disc... man", has come up as Patna's first discotheque. Now the Patnaites don't need to bother anymore about the absence of nightlife in the state capital. Those seeking to forget work pressure and spend their weekends over some loud music, the discotheque boasts of elegant interiors and would serve mock-tails and Thai, Chinese and Continental cuisines.

Chefs from five-star hotels of Delhi would be treating your taste buds with specialities that include "Thai fried chicken" and "spring rolls". Trying to cash in on the festive season, the discotheque will make its presence felt through a mega event.

FUNTASIA ISLAND - PATNA'S OWN WATER PARK

The state capital is ready to invite you to its newly launched and first water amusement park – Funtasia Island. Incorporated with all the facilities of a modern water park, it is located at Sampatchak - Parsa road on the New Bypass road and is spread over 5 acres of land. The park is developed and promoted by Takshila Seas & Resorts Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai.

The prime attraction of the spot is the 80 feet tall Statue Shower

in which water will fall from the top in the form of a shower. The park is built with water rides, swimming pools, wave pool, locker room, parking lots, children's fun items, restaurants, coffee shops, souvenir shops, banquet hall, safety equipment and many other facilities.

There are four pools - one for adults, two for children of age group 5-8 years and one wave pool.

The park has 11 sliders for all - the tallest being at 10 metres and shortest being at 7 metres. Wave pool is said to be a major attraction of the park. It will also serve its visitors with the facility for rain dance with lights and sounds. All equipment of sliders has been especially brought from China. The park will have lot of greenery as 1600 trees have been planted.

TATTOO CRAZE

The traditional body art, known as 'godna', has been popular since long but its modern version tattoo is now getting in great demand. Tattoo craze is not just limited to Bollywood and Hollywood hunks & babes but hoi polloi can even be spotted with wild tattoos - here and there - on their body.

Patna too is offering its residents two such tattoo parlours- 'Wildink Tattoo', located at Dumraon Palace in Frazer Road and other at Saachi Palace in Boring Road area named 'G7 Patna Tattoo'.

These centres offer their patrons, most of which are students and young professionals, a wide range of designs, such as swastika, lotus, angel, dragon, lion and zodiac signs, butterfly and names of their girlfriend/boyfriend and even Madhubani paintings.

MOVIES & MULTIPLEX

Patna offers a decent experience of multiplexes and movies. Multiplex culture, though in nascent stage, is evolving fast. The city also has many cinema halls where one can enjoy the latest Bollywood, Bhojpuri and Hollywood flicks. One multiplex, P&M, was opened in 2011 and many others are in the pipeline.

Kriti Sonali, Sunanda Jha, Samridhi Dikshit



MINORS FALL PREY TO DRUG RACKET



Place: Foot overbridge,
Patna Junction

Time: 11:30am

Scene: A 10-year-old boy, with a piece of cloth in his hand, is sitting on the stairs, unaffected by the happenings around him. He is engrossed inhaling the cloth soaked in suspicious liquid

Place: Gate No 2,
Mithapur Bus Stand

Time: 12:40pm

Scene: At Mithapur bus stand, buying one of the harmful drugs, ganja, is as easy as getting biscuit from a roadside shop. In a small hut, there are four to five people busy consuming ganja



Place: Staircase
at Patna Junction

Time: 1:20pm

Scene: A group of two teenagers inhaling thinner. Another teenager snatches the piece of wary cloth from the duo. The duo get irritated and want their drug back

**Kriti Sonali, Apama,
Shrishty Ganguly, Ruchi Sharma**

The major threat the society is facing today is drug addiction. Irrespective of age, status, all are exposed to drugs which have an adverse impact on their lives.

Heroin, opium, alcohol, cannabis and Propoxyphene are the five most common drugs in use. Other than these, the minors are also exposed to products such as cough syrups, whitener, pain relief ointment, glue, paint, gasoline, wet carbon paper, mixture of fibre matting and boiling toothpaste which are easily available in the market. These substances can be chewed, swallowed, placed on mucous membrane, injected, smoked or inhaled.

According to a survey conducted in 2008 by Child Line India Foundation, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), 63.6% of people report drug addiction at a tender age of 15 years and below. According to another survey, 13.1% of people fall prey to drug and psychotropic abuse before attaining the age of 20 years. The problem of drug intake and addiction is not only restricted to metro cities. Even in states like Bihar, Jharkhand and Haryana, the menace continues unabated.

In Patna, places like Junction, Hanuman Mandir, Mithapur Bus Stand, Sabjibagh and Hardinge Park are infamous for drug use. At railway station, street children are commonly seen taking drugs of different kinds. Exposure

to drugs is mainly because of peer pressure, easy availability of drugs, search of pleasure, means of escaping responsibility, lack of proper love and care. "I often see the street children inhaling drugs in platform no.10 and near the staircase. I wonder how they get these stuffs so easily," said a sweeper working in railway station.

"A big drug racket is active at the junction. The gang leaders lure teenagers to take drugs and later extract personal gains from them. Whenever they are caught, they are sent to remand homes. But after coming back, they again indulge in these activities," a Railway Protection Force (RPF) officer told Headway on the condition of anonymity, as he is not authorised to talk to media.

Ms Rakhi Sharma, a social worker associated with Disha, said, "People in the age group of 18 to 35 years are prone to drug addiction. In many cases, teenagers adopt the wrong path due to peer pressure."

The rehabilitation centres are working hard to put a check on drug menace. They take one to two months to rehabilitate the victims, depending on the latter's condition. The initial step for treatment is detoxification process followed by psychiatrists' help. At Disha Rehabilitation Centre, 7,813 patients were registered in 2011-12. A 19-year-old drug addict who is undergoing treatment at Disha, said, "I was addicted to smack and ganja for one year. I used to steal money from home to meet my needs."

SEX DETERMINATION A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

**Shruti Shiksha, Samridhi Dikshit,
Megha Mathur**

A woman becomes complete only when she is a mother, but some circumstances force her to slaughter her own foetus. Mothers are always an inspiration for their children, but there are times when she gives away her motherly instincts and kills her child even before the child opens its eyes to witness her love.

According to a survey, 25% of Bihari women believe that abortion is legal. The sex ratio in Bihar has declined from 921 in the year 2001 to 916 in 2011. The figure is in stark contrast to Jharkhand and Odisha where sex ratio is on the rise. In Jharkhand, it has increased from 941 to 947 and in Odisha from 972 to 978 during the same period. The survey reveals that around 5.8 lakh induced abortions are conducted in Bihar every year, be it pre-marital or post-marital.

According to the State Commission for Women, about 50% women in Bihar are subjected to domestic violence at home. Pregnant women are the worst sufferers. The primary reason behind this is desire for male child.

Gender bias in India, especially in Bihar, is to some extent responsible for decline in female ratio. Lack of education and poverty in rural areas lead to gender bias.



Pregnancy at teenage is harmful as well as traumatic. It is a situation with life threatening risk that may gnaw at the girl for long.

Dr Neelam, a gynaecologist at Arvind Hospital, said: "Every month I get three to four cases of pregnancies involving girls in the age group of 15-19 years. We advise them against abortion". She recalled a pre-marital delivery case, saying that a girl was pushed before a running train by her kin after she gave birth to a stillborn.

Sex education is important and focusing on harmful effects of unsafe sex has become a must now. Experts believe that it is high time parents impart sex education to their children. Most of the parents continue with the traditional upbringing in which children are not told about these problems.

According to the doctors, emergency contraceptive pills can be taken within 72 hours.

People generally think that contraceptive pills prevent pregnancy, but according to Dr Manju Geeta Mishra, pills sometimes do not prevent pregnancy. People take pills and think they are protected, but by the time they realise, it's too late to mend. "Consuming these pills may lead to many side effects which include hormonal imbalances, erratic menstrual cycle and loss of blood. Regular use of these pills may also cause cervical cancer and breast related disorders," she added.

Sabeela Rasheed, Richa, Nisha, Suman Lal, Rupam

The much-talked-about programme of Aamir Khan's production house, *Satyamev Jayate*, threw light on the frail healthcare system prevalent in our country. The show had focused on fake medicines.

On May 8, 2012, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare presented its report to the Rajya Sabha. It raised questions on the functioning of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), which is headed by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), revealing the unhealthy link that exists in the country between the drug industry, the medical professional and the body that looks upon the licensing and trial of the drugs. It revealed that between January 2008 and October 2010, 33 drugs were approved without clinical trials.

A counterfeit drug is a medication or pharmaceutical product which is produced and sold with the intent to deceptively represent its origin, authenticity or effectiveness. According to a report released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 75% of fake drugs supplied world over owe its origin in India, followed by Egypt and China.

Fake drugs may be categorised in three ways. The first type is the one, in which a drug may contain inappropriate quantities of active ingredients, with added, hazardous adulterants substituted ingredients. Another type may be the one which contain ingredients that are not on label

SAVIOURS DO THE CON

Top medicine brands are being faked and sold on an unprecedented scale in India

(which may or may not be harmful). And the third type of counterfeit drug may be the one which is supplied with inaccurate or fake packaging and

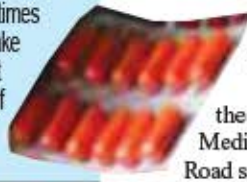


It is almost impossible for a common man to detect fake medicine. The biggest give away is when someone sells medicine at cheaper rate

A Patna city chemist

We have a profit margin of only 5% to 18%, but sometimes when the doctors also take commission, our profit margin reduces by half

Owner of a medicine shop



Sometimes some original medicines made at a lower cost are sold at a higher rate.

Asked about this, the owner of Shibu Medical Store on Boring Road says, "We have a profit margin of only 5% to 18%, but sometimes when the doctors also take commission, our profit margin reduces by half."

labeling.

Much to the chagrin of the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry, fake drugs are available everywhere. Successful brands are being faked and sold on an unprecedented scale in India. So much so that fake allopathic as well as homeopathic medicines are estimated to occupy between 15% to 20% of the Rs 40,000 crore Indian Pharmaceutical market.

"Originally, fake drugs were confined to lifestyle drugs or conventional medications for cold, cough and fever. Nowadays they have made a smooth transition to lifesaving drugs as well," says Md Mahmood, a chemist from the Patna City area. But the price difference is not the only parameter that can detect fake medicine.



Doctors prescribe only those medicines which are only available in shops adjacent to their clinics

An attendant of a patient

Above all, the main sufferer is the ultimate customer. Vinit, an attendant of a patient in a private nursing home says, "The healthcare facilities are getting expensive day by day. The doctors prescribe those medicines which are only available in shops adjacent to their clinics."



'GOVT COMMITTED TO BOOSTING HEALTHCARE'

In an exclusive interview, Bihar Health Minister Mr Ashwini Kumar Choubey enlightens Headway reporters Malahat Jahan and Swati Sinha about the government's plans for a healthy Bihar. Excerpts:

Production and distribution of fake medicines is on the rise. How is the government coping with it?

There is Office of Drug Controller to check the production of fake medicines. The department confirms the composition and configuration of the medicine.

What initiatives have been taken to facilitate good quality health services in the state? We are marching forward with an agenda of both 'Preventive and Curative' aspect. The government is trying to reach every nook and corner of the villages. With the slogan 'Chikitsa chikitsak apke dwaar', medical camps are organised every year under the Swasth Kumbh Mela scheme.

Generic Drugs: What are your plans about it? Generic drugs are accessible at all government hospitals and primary health centres. These drugs are available at half the price when compared to allopathic medicines. The Centre should formulate a law or some code and policy so as to disable this monopoly and promote generic drugs.

PERILS OF FAKE COSMETICS

The up-to-the-minute fashion sense has made people hustle to look alluring. The trade of vogue has trapped almost every single person in its web. Cosmetics has almost become an obsession especially for the fairer sex. Unable to meet the rising demand of cosmetics, the market of fake cosmetics have gradually increased, report Isha Raj, Aparna and Sachi

The cosmetic market in Patna is flooded with fake products. The recent raid conducted by Patna Police in which a sizeable amount of fake cosmetics was seized, was just a tip of the iceberg. Earlier, a reputed retail chain was raided in the city and fake cosmetics worth Rs 10 lakhs were confiscated. The counterfeit racketeers used the names of brands such as Mac, L'Oreal, Lancôme, Lakme and Maybelline.

These cosmetics can cause serious repercussions like allergic contact dermatitis. Dr Vinod Kumar, a skin specialist, said fake cosmetics can pose serious threat on our health and skin too. "Fake cosmetics do give some amount of glow in the

beginning, but prolonged use of this can even lead to serious ailments. Those who use fake cosmetics are susceptible to diseases like itching, swelling, rashes, wrinkles, pimples,

hyper-pigmentation, etc," Dr Kumar said. Priyanka Singh a final year student of Patna Women's College says: "I am in regular contact with my dermatologist to avoid harmful effects of fake products."

"I prefer L'Oreal and MAC and a few herbal products for make up." Glamour quotient notwithstanding, the recent raids in some of the leading cosmetic shops in the city have opened the eyes of womenfolk. The sooner they realise the ill-effects of fake products, the better for them.



GERMANY: WHERE HISTORY DATES THE PRESENT

Germany is a federation of 16 states, roughly corresponding to regions with their own distinct and unique culture. **Shampa Sharma** captures the exotic beauty of the country

The economic powerhouse of Europe and a leading player in world affairs, Germany is one of the most prosperous countries in the world. Its rich history slowly gave way to a modern and technologically advanced state, incorporating the best of both eras. Germany thus presents a tradition of flourishing and varied lifestyle along with the magnificent backdrop of natural beauty and its cities attract a lot of interest from visitors around the world. German cities offer endless opportunities to relax, enjoy, learn and celebrate the spirit that is human life.

The Romer Square in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, is one of the city's most important landmarks and is dominated by The Römer, a medieval building with traditional architecture which has



1.Frankfurt Airport 2.A clock factory, Blackforest, 3.Museum 4.Souvenirs on display 5.River Rhine 6.Chapel at Romer Square 7.Traditional restaurant 8.3rd Century Bridge, Heidelberg 9.Romer Square 10.German countryside

been the city hall (Rathaus) for 600 years. Germany's metropolis with a magnificent skyline due to its role as leading financial centre, transportation hub and the seat of the European Central Bank (ECB), Frankfurt is the business hub and the most cosmopolitan city in Germany. The

world's biggest book fair and a host of international trade fairs are held in Frankfurt.

Berlin, the reunified and reinvigorated capital of Germany, known for its division during the Cold War has witnessed alternating periods of misery and rapid growth, all throughout its

history. Today it is flooded with state-of-the-art universities, museums, sporting venues, research facilities and rich corporations all over its landscape.

Munich is the city of beer, the Alps and the rich Bavarian lifestyle, the popular hotspot for food and beverage lovers. The city of

Cologne is another vibrant metropolis offering a lavish blend of art, history and modern life. Situated on the banks of the Rhine, it is famous for its perfumes. Hamburg is the second largest metropolis of Germany. This port city is abuzz with some of the most hectic transportation

of cargo and passenger traffic.

Heidelberg boasts of a low stone bridge that spans the Neckar River which is a tributary of the Rhine, and it affords views of Heidelberg Castle and the picturesque Old Town, the home to tennis legends like Boris Becker and Steffi Graph.

The Black Forest (German: Schwarzwald) is a wooded mountain range in Baden-Württemberg and is part of the continental divide between the Atlantic Ocean drainage basin (drained by the Rhine) and the Black Sea drainage basin (drained by the Danube).

Offering everything in excellence, right from breathtaking landscapes to brilliant architecture, culture and ethnicity, on the whole, Germany is a destination where history sets up a date with the present in all its glory.

Nancy Priya

Our maiden trip to Hyderabad, the hub of the Nizams and pearls, was not just a study tour. It was an experience that the students of BMC third year would never forget. A piece of paper on our notice board announcing the study tour suddenly created an exciting environment in the classroom.

After waiting for what seemed like eternity, September 1, 2012 finally arrived and we boarded the train from Patna Junction. Cheering and enjoying the two days of journey via Howrah just slipped like sand grains from a hand and we reached Secunderabad where distinct cultural and linguistic traditions of North and South India meet.

Our study tour offered us a live experience of witnessing the world of media and gave us tremendous scope to learn and explore as we visited the Society for Andhra Pradesh Network (SAPNET), Salar-Jung Museum, The Hindu, ETV Bihar and Ramoji Film City.

Situated just opposite to the Hi-tech city is SAPNET, a communication infrastructure initiative from government of Andhra Pradesh. On its premises, we got an opportunity to interact with the CEO and have a look at its various departments and its functioning which



HAND-IN-HAND TO HYDERABAD

gave us an insight into how the communication world functions.

The third largest national museum in India, Salar-Jung, housing the biggest one-man collections of antiques in the world and its fascinating art galleries and rare manuscripts showcased the rich heritage of the Nawabs.

A visit to the national daily newspaper, *The Hindu*, and the regional news channel, ETV Bihar, was very enlightening for us as we got the opportunity to have a close look at the working modes of both electronic and print media.

Hyderabad has a beautiful Birla Temple. The view of the city and Hussain Sagar Lake from the temple is mesmerising. Golconda Fort, one of the most magnificent fortress complexes in India, is also a place which attracts a number of tourists with its architecture and historical background. The famous light and sound show there left us enthralled.

Now, it was the last day of the trip. The stage was set and the replication of the scene where "dacoits are following Basanti is going on". Guess where were we? Yes, in the colourful Ramoji Film City.

Spread over an area of 1,666 acres of land, it is the largest film city in the world. It was made in 1992 and the first movie was shot in the year 1996.

Towards the end of the trip one thing was still missing. Shopping!! We could not resist ourselves from shopping around.

The enjoyable experiences cannot last forever as every good thing comes to an end. It was a delight to visit and relive in a place which only oozes out royalty and any number of days are not enough as there is no end to places worth visiting. Wish we could rewind the clock and get a chance to spend more blissful moments with classmates and teachers. Let's hope we get such chances again and again in future.

LONAVALA, PANCHGANI: TOURISTS' DELIGHT



The Purna Lake at Lonavala.

**Sudipta Roy
Choudhary and
Tanya Singh**

Nestled in the Sahayadri ranges of Maharashtra is Lonavala, a pictorial hill station extremely popular as a weekend getaway, especially for the people of Mumbai and Pune. It can be best described as a wonderful world that is full of beauty, charm and adventure. Blessed with valleys, hills, milky waterfalls, lush greenery and pleasant cool winds, Lonavala is a perfect choice to take refuge from the over worked up schedule.

The name 'Lonavala' is derived from the Sanskrit word 'Lonavali', which means a city surrounded by caves referring to many caves like Karla, Bhaja and Bedsa around. Situated in western part of Maharashtra in India, 106 kms south-east of Mumbai at an altitude of 625 mts above sea level, Lonavala has endless recreational possibilities and is a popular choice for a low budg-

GETAWAY HOLIDAY DESTINATION

A visit to Lonavala is incomplete without having a visit to Panchgani, a hill station which is 157 km /98 miles away from Lonavala.

Panchgani is considered as the 'Switzerland of India'. It is christened based on Panch as it is surrounded by five hills of Sahyadri and Gani meaning settlement. At an altitude of 1334 mts, it is just 38 mts below Mahabaleshwar.

The picturesque hill station of Panchgani is a perfect place to spend time with your family or friends and is appealing at any time of the year. The weather in Panchgani is very enjoyable having the temperature of around 12°C during the winter, and sometimes, reaches 34°C during the summer. The best time to visit the



Panchgani

place is from September to May, when the monsoons subside.

The magnificent scenery of Krishna valley from West to East with its numerous hamlets, cultivated fields and striking view of the backwater of Dhom Dam can be seen along the whole northern ridge of the mountain. Panchgani's famous 'table land' has been the location for many Indian movies; "Taare Zameen Par" and "Agent Vinod" being the most recent ones. A well-known Ganesh

Temple is located close by in Wai. Dhom Dam, The Lingmala Falls, Rajapuri caves, Sydney Point Parsi point and Devil's Kitchen are names of few places of interest.

Panchgani is well connected by road to Mumbai, Pune and all other cities in Maharashtra but have no air and train facilities. One has to travel to nearby places like Pune, and Mumbai by road to travel by air or rail.

The fresh air and revitalising climate of Panchgani made it a good place for restoration, especially for those suffering from tuberculosis. Panchgani is a treat for the eyes because of its splendid views and fun sports, which leaves one with a feel good feeling having enjoyed the whole experience thoroughly.

et holiday.

For adventurous enthusiasts, Lonavala has a fair list of outdoor activities, including trekking,

camping, walk along the waterfalls and rock climbing. The place is surrounded by many placid lakes and dams like the

Pavna Lake, Tungarli Lake, Lonaval Lake, Valvan Dam and Bhushi Dam. These beautiful natural settings are popular

camping spots where one can just pitch a tent under the open sky and enjoy nature at its best.

If history interests you, don't forget to visit the archaeological wonder called Karla caves, the largest temple caves in Maharashtra where Buddhist monks stayed for meditating. Another Buddhist site that may interest you is the Bhaja caves that has 18 rock cut caves constructed by Buddhists and boasts of many sculptures.

On way to Karla and Bhaja caves, there is a Kaivalyadhana Yoga Hospital which is 2kms away from Lonavala. This centre attracts both local and foreign tourists seeking yogic healing.

Lonavala doesn't have an airport of its own but is well connected having trains and bus services. One has to fly to Bombay or Pune and then avail the bus services. Connecting trains are always available from Mumbai Central Station and Pune Junction.

INDIA OPENS TO WORLD MARKET

Samridhi Dikshit and
Tanya Singh

Foreign capital prefers access to new markets. The humongous population of India offers with its inimitability an ideal unsaturated trade bazaar, a haven for investment. A symbolic issue that defines the economic condition of the state has neither shown need for great celebration nor for deep despair. The question still remains the same, 'foreign direct investment (FDI) is a boon or a bane'.

Parliament's green signal to the proposal of FDI has proved the words of Dr Manmohan Singh that at times we need to say 'No' to the easy option and 'Yes' to the difficult one, precisely. The policy of economic growth got a stamp of 123 votes out of 244 votes against opposition tally of 109 in Rajya Sabha. 51% FDI in multi brand retail shall bring some light on our nuanced policies by doing two things. One, it will allow flow of capital in a sector crying for investment. Two,

the move will allow technology solutions and bring efficiency to the market.

International airlines have welcomed the government move. Carriers like Singapore Airlines, Emirates and the International Airlines Group (IAG), which owns British Airways and Iberia, have said they do not have any immediate plans to invest in India.

The retail reform will allow foreign chains such as Wal-Mart, Carrefour (CARR.PA) and Tesco Plc (TSCO.L) to own a 51% stake in supermarkets, opening the door to a market of 1.2 billion people. Previously, foreign firms were



ILLUSTRATION: SAMRIDHI DIKSHIT

UPA'S REFORMS PUSH

- Single brand retailers such as Apple and IKEA can own 100% of their Indian stores, up from previous cap of 51%
- The retailers (both single and multi-brand) will have to source at least 30% of their goods from small and medium sized Indian suppliers
- All retail stores can open up their operations in population having over 1 million
- Multi-brand retailers must bring minimum investment of \$100 million. Half of this must be invested in back-end infrastructure facilities such as cold chains, refrigeration, transportation, packaging etc. to reduce post-harvest losses and provide remunerative prices to farmers
- Open-sky policy for foreign investment in domestic airlines
- Foreign investment ceiling in the insurance sector raised to 49% from the present 26%

only allowed to operate as wholesale outlets. "We are grateful that the government has realised and appreciated the value that we will bring to strengthen the Indian economy," said Mr Raj Jain, president Wal-Mart India.

"This policy change will allow us to connect directly with consumers and help them save money", he added.

FDI in retail will hit small traders: Modi

What are the hurdles in implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST)? What the GST panel is doing to win confidence of states?

The states want an assurance from the Central Government that in case of revenue loss, the state will be compensated. The Indian Constitution provides fiscal autonomy to the states. The states are scared that in the name of the single common market and harmonization their autonomy should not be encroached. The Bill for GST is pending with the parliamentary standing committee on finance for the last 17 months. The bill has to be passed from both houses of parliament and ratified by 50% of the state governments.

Is GST/CST linked to the government's reforms push?

Yes, GST is directly linked to government's reform push. GST is considered a game changer. It is assumed that after GST, Indian goods will be more competitive in the international market and it will be much eas-

ier to do business in India. Because of GST, GDP can increase by 2 to 2.5%. Most of the indirect taxes will be subsumed in GST, tax rates will be minimised and India will become a single common market.

Will FDI in retail help?

FDI in retail will affect the business of small traders. It has been a worldwide experience that FDI in retail has wiped out small business. Stores like Wal-Mart in the initial days sell things very cheap but after wiping out the retail trade, monopolises the whole trade and start charging exorbitantly. India needs FDI in aviation, communication, insurance and banking but not in retail. We are competent enough to run our stores. We don't need FDI to run our shops.

Can reforms provide a two-digit growth to Indian economy as claimed by the UPA government?

Double digit growth depends on many internal and external factors. Because of economic slowdown in Europe and US, our exports have gone down. Inflation is not within comfortable limits. Fiscal deficit and current account deficit is beyond desirable limits. In the 12th plan, government of India has projected a growth rate of less than 8%. So it is not only the reform which would provide a double digit growth but it depends on many domestic as well as external factors.

—Prerna Jalan



It seems that the rights mentioned in the Constitution, such as 'right to life', the 'right to dignity', the 'right to personal liberty' and the 'right to bodily integrity and health' are meant only for the dominant part of the society and these promises are yet to be redeemed for women. Sexual assaults, domestic violences, dowry deaths and other forms of crime against women are examples of brazen violation of these rights.

In India, mentality is linked to our glorious 5,000-year-old culture that expects women to cook, clean, bear babies and not go out at night. It is this mentality that prompts a judge to declare that a woman cannot accuse her husband of rape. The general perception is that 'the Indian woman must be meek and family-oriented'. One can say that the situation in India is anti-women.

The cry that reverberated on the streets of New Delhi, spread across whole country, with the country's younger generation joining the chorus of 'WE WANT JUSTICE'. The brutal December 16 gang rape of a 23-year-old physiotherapy student in a moving bus in New Delhi shocked the entire world. The girl subsequently succumbed to severe internal injuries at a Singapore hospital. The case was not isolated one, but its brutality raised the conscience of the people the world over. The incident sparked massive protests in New Delhi and demands for harsher punishment for rapists, especially from young women, rent the air. Many of the protesting young women said they were routinely subjected to sexual aggression in public spaces such as in autos, buses etc.

After the Delhi gang rape, a large part of what drove an anguished citizenry onto the streets was the notion that nobody really responds in the establishment, no matter how dastardly the deed demanding intervention. The women of this country are no longer willing to tolerate the unconscionable delays in the delivery of justice.

A three-member commission assigned to

SHE CHANGES SYSTEM

The Delhi gangrape victim shook the whole country and forced the lawmakers to come up with stringent laws to protect women. *Samridhi Dikshit, Sunanda Jha and Ansu Kumari* recall the horror



review laws for sexual crimes submitted its report to the government. The commission, headed by former Chief Justice of India, Justice JS Verma, has identified 'failure of governance' as the root cause for sexual crime. It has criticised the government, the police and even the public for its apathy, and has recommended drastic change in law.

Now, when the union cabinet has accepted the Verma panel's recommendations and cleared an ordinance, there's a ray of hope that the condition would change. However, there are dangers in extreme haste as well.

Indian law currently says the marital status is in itself a presumption of a woman's consent to sex with her husband under any circumstances. Finance Minister Mr P Chidambaram said changing the law to permit a concept of 'marital rape' was too controversial in India's highly conservative society, and still needed further debate and consensus-building. He also said the government was not ready to act on proposals to lift the current immunity for rapes and other sexual assaults committed by the armed forces in conflict areas.

SHAME ON HUMANITY

On December 16, 2012, a horrific incident sent shiver down the spine and threw the country into the pool of shame.

A 23-year old girl and her boyfriend were on way home after watching a movie in Saket, South Delhi.

They boarded a chartered bus at Munirka for Dwarka at 9:30 pm. The woman's friend became suspicious when the bus deviated from its normal route and its doors were shut. When he objected, the group of six men already in the bus taunted the couple, asking what they were doing alone at such a late hour.

When the male victim tried to intervene, he was beaten, gagged and knocked unconscious with an iron rod. The men dragged the woman to the rear of the bus, beating her with the rod and raping her while the bus driver continued to drive. Medical reports later suggested that the woman suffered serious injuries to her abdomen, intestines and genitals due to the assault.

According to the International Business Times, a police spokesman said the youngest attacker "sexually abused his victim twice and ripped out her intestines with his bare hands." According to police reports, the woman attempted to fight off her assailants, biting three of the attackers and leaving bite marks on the accused men. After the beatings and rape ended, the attackers threw both the victims from the moving bus. One of the perpetrators later cleaned the vehicle.

The victims were found by a passerby on the road, partially clothed and unconscious, around 11 pm. The passerby phoned the Delhi Police, who took the couple to a hospital. A doctor at the hospital later said that the "rod was inserted into her and it was pulled out with so much force that the act brought out her intestines also. That is probably the only thing that explains such severe damage to her intestines."

VERMA PANEL PILLS

- Rape leading to death or leaving the victim in a vegetative state could attract death penalty
- Minimum punishment 20 years jail for such offence or whole life
- Acid attack to attract minimum 10 years jail as victim's right to live with dignity is impaired
- Sexual assault to include intentional and offensive touching, action, gestures and words
- Public disrobing of women made specific offence and will attract jail term of three to seven years. Voyeurism or 'peeping Toms' could get 3 years jail and covers electronic snooping
- Stalking, often referred to as 'eve-teasing', also specific offence

- Rape to be made gender neutral
- Custodial rape to attract minimum 10 years punishment and maximum life term
- Other CrPc changes include identification parade procedures, preference to women officer in filing FIRs, sexual history of victim, woman's claim of lack of consent
- Juvenile age to be dealt with when juvenile justice act is amended



ILLUSTRATION:
KUMARI TEJASWITA

THE REJECTED ONES

- Cabinet refuses to consider marital rape as offence. Says no to inclusion of forced sex in a period of separation as offence
- No need for government consent to take up rape cases by armed forces. Cabinet also against trying rape accused armed personnel in ordinary court
- Doesn't agree to hold senior officer responsible for failure to prevent rapes by troops under his command
- Those charged with sexual crimes can't contest polls



INDO-US RELATIONS

Sabeela Rasheed

What's ahead for US-India relations now that President Obama has reassumed office? With ties between Washington and New Delhi continuing to flourish over the past four years, the US-India bilateral partnership will be characterised by continuity and growth during second Obama term.

FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES

According to some analysts, India-US relations have been strained over the Obama administration's approach to handling the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan and Pakistan. India's former National Security Adviser, Mr M K Narayanan had criticised the Obama administration for linking the Kashmir dispute to the instability in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Economically, trade with India is on track to cross the \$100 billion mark for the first time, US investment in the country has skyrocketed compared to just a decade ago, and the two sides have worked to conclude a US-India Bilateral Investment Treaty that would further bolster their economic relationship.

STRATEGIC MILITARY RELATIONS

On the security front, cooperation reached unprecedented levels under Obama's first term. US is one of the top three military suppliers to India (after Israel and Russia). Counter-terrorism and intelligence collaboration between the two has increased dramatically following the infamous November 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

FUTURE ASPECTS

Mr S M Krishna, External Affairs Minister of India, raised voice for Washington's hike in visa fees in 2010, which raised a furore among IT companies that would be required to fund significantly higher costs for H1-B and L1 visas. Hillary Clinton, US Secretary of Foreign Affairs, mentioned that general visa revamping could only follow the November 6 elections.



JAPAN FACTOR

Throughout history, India and Japan have enjoyed a long and mutually fruitful bilateral relation. The holding of India-Japan Summits on a regular basis has greatly helped exchange of perceptions and rapid diversification and strengthening of the cooperative. The India-Japan 'Strategic and Global Partnership' launched in 2006 reflected the convergence of strategic interests of the two countries which were hailed as "two major pillars of new Asia". The relations have undergone a significant and qualitative shift in recent years propelled by the successful regular summit level exchanges. The flourishing India-Japan partnership received further impetus by the 'Vision for the Strategic and Global Partnership in the Next Decade' the two countries unveiled in October 2010. While India and Japan have a lot of defence and foreign policy issues to discuss and be concerned about, trade is one area where they can do much better. After years of gridlock and drift during which Japan has stumbled from one recession to another, Mr Shinzo Abe's government now has the chance to lead. A pact between the two countries signed in August last seeks to double bilateral trade to \$25 billion by 2014.

— Malahat Jahan

SINO CONNECTION



Sabeela Rasheed

Indo-China relationship is the perfect example of love-hate relationship, which has seen many ups and downs. The story of the bilateral relationship between these two countries has all the ingredients of a commercial Bollywood thriller. It is characterised by genuine friendship, opposition, contradiction, suspense and drama.

Sino-Indian relations, also called Indo-China relations, began in 1950 when India was among the first countries to break relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan and recognise the People's Republic of China (PRC). However, the border dispute between the two nations ultimately resulted in the worsening of relationship and thus the Sino-Indian war broke out in 1962.

Since then, there has been continuous turmoil between the two nations. Two regions are claimed by both India and China i.e. Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh.

Another issue strained the relationship between the two in 2007, when China started providing 'stapled visas' to the residents of Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh. Later, China appeared to have reversed its policy, after strong opposition from India.

However, a series of high-level visits between the two nations have helped improve relations. In 2003, India formally recognised Tibet as a part of China, and China formally recognised Sikkim as a part of India. Adding to which, in 2006, China and India re-opened 'Nathula pass', which was closed since the Sino-Indian War broke out.

During the fourth BRICS summit held in April 2012 in New Delhi, India, it was agreed that China's government would encourage domestic companies to import more products from India in order to balance the trade deficit. Also, during the summit, Chinese President Hu Jintao told Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that "it is China's unswerving policy to develop Sino-Indian friendship, deepen strategic cooperation and seek common development".

Despite lingering suspicions remaining from the 1962 Sino-Indian War and continuing boundary disputes over Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh, Sino-Indian relations have improved gradually since 1988.

Trishita Das

The elections are months away in Pakistan and a recent opinion poll indicated that Pakistan's greatest sportsman Imran Khan would become the country's most popular politician. While on the other hand 24-year-old Bilawal Bhutto Zardari made his formal entry into politics on December 27, the fifth death anniversary of his mother Benazir Bhutto through a rally that was held in Garhi Khuda Baksh which drew thousands of people.

Imran Khan's party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Movement for Justice, or



PAK PUNCH

P.T.I., as it is called), has never won more than a single seat in Pakistan's 342-member National Assembly. But things have changed. Khan has now managed to bring together two rivals - Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Pakistan's foreign minister from 2008 to 2011 and Javed Hashmi, politician from Punjab, Pakistan's politically dominant

province, as vice chairman and president of his party, respectively.

Looking at the big picture, Bilawal's arrival has given the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) a new lease of life. If compared to PTI and the PML-N, party of Mian Nawaz Sharif, PPP has a much larger vote bank, especially in the Sindh province and also in the southern parts of Punjab province. Taking these things into consideration, there is little chance that Bilawal will stand for elections at this stage. Some say that he will contest for the parliament seat and try to reorganise and uplift the party.

RURAL EDUCATION

TODDLING TO A BETTER TOMORROW

Nidhi, Anamika, Chandani

The "School Chale Hum" and "Sab Padhe Sab Badhe" campaign of the Bihar Government inspired a large number of children and people from all ages to march towards the school.

Mr Harilal, headmaster, Government Middle School (boys), Sahebganj says: "We teach students through plays and pictures. The government provides Rs 500 and Teacher Learning Material (TLM) for its successful execution. Under TLM, card-board, packet board, tables, crafts and dolls are provided and teachers teach students from these materials."

The school has classes from 1 to 8 with a total of 18 teachers. It has government facilities like mid-day meal, medicines and school uniforms. The school fulfills all the requirements of sports. In addition, music and moral education classes are also held. However, the absence of reliable electricity made it difficult for the students to learn science and technology. A notable fact is that the children here are told to plant saplings. If the plants are alive, they receive Rs 100 per year from the government.

"Our school provides all the facilities



except electricity. Its condition is terrible in the village," said Ms Pinki Dey, a teacher. Government schemes have been successfully implemented. However, infrastructural facilities of schools in rural areas are still flawed.

Utkarmik Madhya Vidyalaya, (boys) and Primary School for girls, Bhithmerva, Gopalganj district have the same tale. Here mid-day meal and school uniforms are provided, but the children are forced to sit on the floor. There are no benches in any of the classrooms.

Geetika, a student from the Bhithmerva Primary School said: "We study under a tree in summer as there are no electric fans in the classrooms. Most of the students get sunstroke during these classes".

Damaged buildings and inadequate electricity is still a major hurdle in rural schools. Despite the countless problems, these schools are making their mark.

Rajkiya Madhya Vidyalaya, a government school at Chausa has approximately 1500 students and aims at providing education to children from poor families in rural areas. The school has recorded maximum growth of development in students and provides scholarship to the talented ones. Consisting of classes up to standard 9, the school witnessed a total growth of 20% in admissions in the last five years.

"Facilities such as scholarship, free uniform, text-books, notebooks and mid-day meal for the students are provided by the government as per their plans and policies. Students are happy and they are working hard for their upcoming future", said Mr Shriramji Chaudhary, headmaster, Rajkiya Madhya Vidyalaya.

There has been an unremitting rise in the number of girls attending schools. The strength of girl students at Primary School, Kararia, has increased from 40 to 45 in each class. The government has made several efforts to enforce and promote education. Yet major enhancements and implementation of policies are required.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION: A RAY OF HOPE FOR FINANCIALLY WEAK STUDENTS

Ankita, Anu Meha, Vishakha, Sneha

Enactment of Right to Education Act (RTE), 2009 is a silver lining in the greys of Indian education system. If one goes through its provisions, it guarantees full time elementary and quality education.

RTE includes provision for no donation or capitation fees and no interview of the child or parent for the admission. It also mentions that no child shall be held back, expelled or required to pass a board examination until the completion of elementary education. There is also a provision for special training of school drop-outs to bring them back on track.

It mandates unaided private schools to keep 25% reservation for the children from weaker sections and disadvantaged communities. Though it is not applicable to unaided minority schools, irrespective of that, some minority schools like Don Bosco Academy, Patna and Loyola High School, Patna are giving free education to poor students.

Brother Felix, Principal, Loyola, said, "Our school gives free education to poor students till class 10. The exercise, however, is not at all useful and should be banned as the government is unable to implement it properly. It also creates discrimination among students."

KEY ISSUES

- RTE concentrates on the quality of teaching and learning which requires accelerated efforts and substantial reforms
- Creative and sustained initiatives are crucial to train more than one million new and untrained teachers within the next five years and to reinforce the skills of existing teachers to ensure child-friendly education
- School Management Committees (SMC), made up of parents, local authorities, teachers and children themselves, will need support to form School Development Plans and monitoring.



Private schools like DAV and Krishna Patliputra High School claim to follow RTE but showed mixed opinion on funds provided for its successful implementation. However, government schools like Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) present a

diverse portrait.

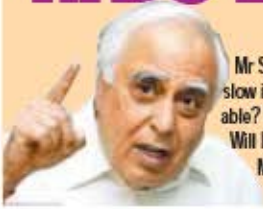
Mr CB Prasad, Vice Principal, KV, Bailey Road, Patna, said: "We follow RTE and the government is providing funds to us. It is totally a government process. The parents of BPL students are asked to show their income certificate to get this privilege. Even the students of SC/ST come under this."

Families and communities also have a large role to play in ensuring child-friendly education. Parents also have different opinion about the proper implementation of RTE. A parent whose ward is studying in Krishna Patliputra High School, on the condition of anonymity, said: "This school is very expensive and has a high fee structure."

Ms. Nasra Anshan, another parent, said, "I have two sons studying at Don Bosco and Loyola, respectively. Both these schools help me a lot and give full support by providing free education to my children." RTE provides a developed platform to reach the unreached, with specific provisions for disadvantaged groups, such as child labourers, migrant children, children with special needs, or those who have disadvantage owing to social, cultural, economical, geographical, linguistic, gender or other such factors.

SIBAL EXITS, RAJU ENTERS...

... but fate of
education reforms
hangs in balance



Mr Sibal was too fast in proposing ideas, but was equally slow in implementing them. Are Mr Sibal's proposals achievable? Will they be fruitful or worsen the few good that is left? Will Mr Raju march ahead gratifying the promises made by Mr Sibal or add to the existing list of pending bills?



Malahat Jahan

The thought of reforms in education itself is a welcome vision. Reviving moral education is high on the list of priorities of new Human Resource Development minister (HRD) Mr MM Pallam Raju. "I think it is very important to build the moral fibre of the youth. Moral education should be part of the curriculum and I will work towards introducing that," Mr Raju said soon after assuming office.

As many as 14 education-related legislations are pending in Parliament. Talking about the pending bills, Mr Raju said he expected to get some of them passed during the winter session of parliament, after taking all parties on board.

The previous HRD minister, Mr Kapil Sibal, had proposed radical changes in the entire education system. From primary to higher education in India, he touched everything in his never-ending legislations.

Mr Sibal was too fast in proposing ideas, but was equally slow in implementing them. Are Sibal's proposals achievable? Will they be fruitful or worsen the few good that is left? Will Mr Raju march ahead gratifying the promises made by Mr Sibal or add to the existing list of pending bills? Comprehending the bright side, the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE) received Rs 25,555 crore out of Rs

61,427 crore from the increased expenditure sanctioned for the year 2012- 2013.

The former HRD minister had advocated a common admission process to the undergraduate engineering programmes under the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the National Institutes of Technology (NITs), the Indian Institutes of Information Technology

(IIITs) and other Central educational institutions giving weightage to the performances in the Class 12 Board examinations. The reactions are variant and both students and mentors have voiced their concern over it. An IIT aspirant disparaged the move saying: "This is an unacceptable proposal. What do they think students are? Learning machines? They expect us to be good students in boards as well as prepare for IIT-JEE at the same time, the latter having an unfathomable syllabus."

Great expectations tie up with this youthful cabinet minister who hails from a political background. The portfolio demands a lot of

vigour and stand taking department. Mr Raju must get his skates on to bequeath the nation with an enlightened lot of teachers who would understand the sensitivities of a child and take up judicious issues to alleviate the existing glory in the education sector of our country and hoard it from further degradation.

— With inputs from Nansi Pal

CHANGE OF GUARD



RAJU'S TASKS

- Increase in the number of primary schools
- Teachers' training institutions should come up to ensure quality teaching
- Role of private institutions should be restricted so that people don't depend too much on them
- Syllabus should be revised
- Education loans should be made easily available
- Strict laws regarding the cheating and coaching mafias

SIBAL'S DEEDS

- Mr Sibal 'de-traumatises' education by making the Class 10 Board Exams optional
- Replaced marks by grades in Classes 9 and 10 of CBSE-affiliated schools
- An independent accreditation body for school education and enactment of the Children's Right to Free and Compulsory Education Bill
- A regulatory authority in higher education with no political interference

NALANDA UNIVERSITY NOW A REALITY

Anamika Sinha

Imagine a university with multimedia equipment, experienced faculties from across the globe, world class infrastructure and that too in Bihar. Sounds impossible! But Nalanda University, Rajgir, has made this a reality.

The grand vision of resurrecting the ancient glories of Nalanda University is expected to become a reality by 2014. According to Nalanda University (NU) Vice Chancellor, Dr Gopa Sabharwal: "There will be a total of seven post graduate schools. The first two schools on Ecology and Environment and Historical studies will start from this year. Along with it, two more schools on Information and Technology with Economic Management are expected to become operational in the coming years."

A sneak peek into the history proves that it was the first residential university of the world which had dormitories. Evidence in literature suggests that in 1193, the Nalanda University was sacked by the fanatic Bakhtiyar Khilji, a Turk. Muslim conquest in India is seen by scholars as one of the reasons of the decline of Buddhism in India.

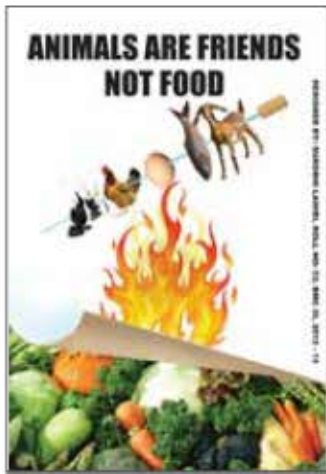
The dream project of Bihar is expected to develop the infrastructure, including road and air connectivity, in Rajgir. If officials are to be believed, the university will align 300 villages on 407 acres of land. Moreover, it will possess global features and its design will be selected through global competition. The proposed university will be fully residential, like the ancient seat of learning at Nalanda. In the first phase of the project, 46 foreign faculty members and over 400 Indian academics would be appointed.

According to a New York Times report, there is a plan to spend \$1 billion to revive Nalanda University near the ancient site. The university, to be funded by the Central Government, is in the process of preparing a detailed project as part of 12th year plan. However, private investment would also be encouraged, officials said.

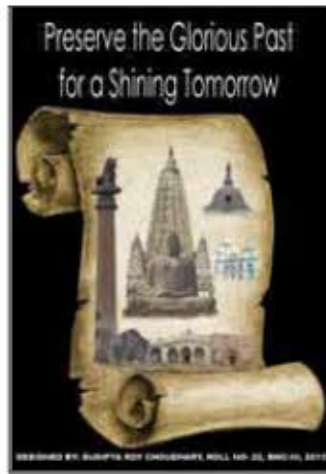
The university consists of highly qualified and eminent mentors like Nobel Laureate and Chancellor of Nalanda University Amartya Sen, Lord Meghnad Desai, Professor Emeritus at London School of Economics and Sujata Bose of Harvard University.



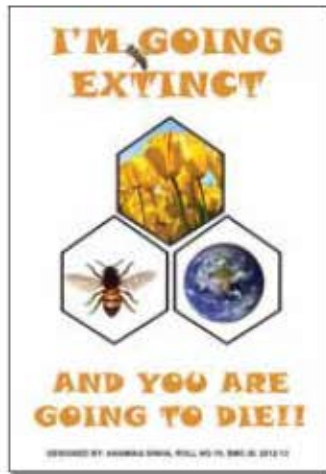
The ruins of ancient Nalanda University



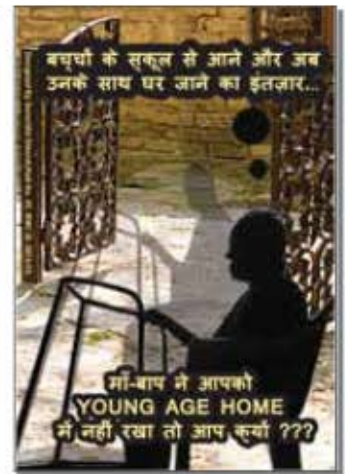
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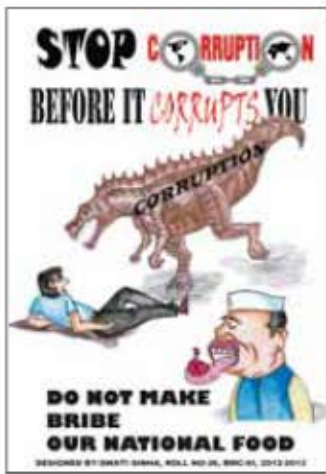
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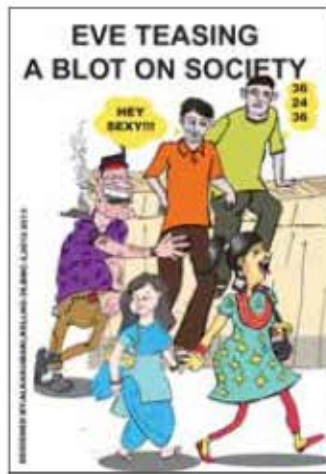
Anamika Sinha



Samridhi Dikshit



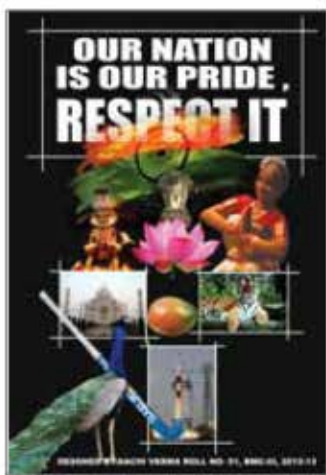
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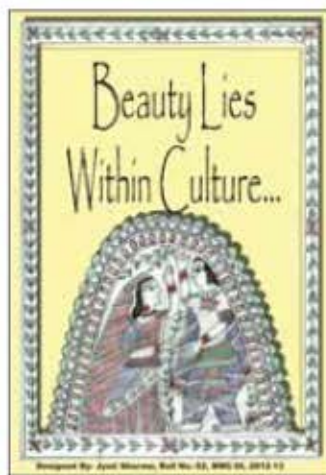
Alka Kumari

CREATIVITY AT ITS BEST

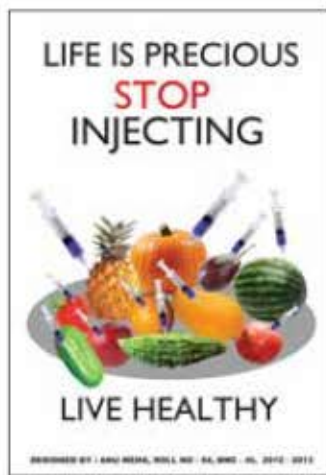
Highlighting social causes, urging people to think and showcasing both positives and negatives of the society was the basic idea behind the posters made by the students of BMC III. Artisan creativity at its best, the students enjoyed this assignment thoroughly.



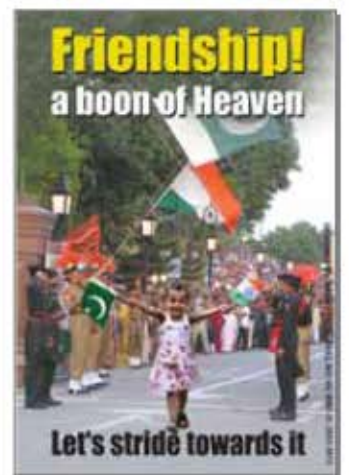
Sachi Verma



Jyoti Sharma



Anu Meha



Nancy Priya

Nikita Tandon

India is a religion obsessed country and Mr Amish Tripathi knows it quite well. This book is about Lord Shiva's life as human on earth. Most of the characters in the novel are already familiar and they form a huge part of Hindu mythology.

The basic plot is that Lord Shiva, the blue-throated Mahadev who was prophesised to save Meluha had to lead an attack on the Chandravanshis, the arch-enemies of the Meluhans in order to save the river Saraswati. The sub-plot includes the mystical alliances of the Nagas, a sinister

**The Immortals of Meluha**

By Amish Tripathi

race with the Chandravanshis and the resulting terrorist attacks on Meluha.

The love and romance between Shiva and Sati has been described quite well. Shiva has been portrayed as a passionate lover. Sati's unyielding and strong character makes her different from all others. He adores her, protects her, sheds blood and tears

for her and in fact brings her back from the death bed. The way Shiva Trilogy ended was completely unexpected. It ended at a most critical point when the reader would be gripping the book with feverish expectation to know what will happen next and Boom!, it's the end.

Malahat Jahan

We have a new serving in the plate of spiritualism. 'The Best Thing about You Is You!' It explores no new idea, yet answers the big questions of life concerning relationships.

This collection of self account by Mr Anupam Kher breaks the philosophical mode of lecturing the reader about how good the life is by telling how to make life beautiful, instead. In his band of 50 chapters, the actor-turned-writer has brought together incidents of his life as well as traditional and foreign sayings. What makes "The Best Thing about You Is You!" both readable and recommendable is the author's

**The best thing about you is you**

By Anupam Kher

lucid prose peppered with plenty of anecdotes that sound convincing and straight from the heart. The narrative unfolds as if the author has put his hand around the reader's arm and is taking him through various ups and downs of life like a true friend, philosopher and guide. Though the book is adorable, there is scope for improvement.

The book should have featured a little more on this subject as it's the relationship which suffers the most in these times of fast economic developments. Extracts from the actor's autobiographical play 'Kuch Bhi Ho Sakta Hai' are repetitive and could have been edited at places.

e-book revolution**Trishita Das**

The most significant development in the field of literature is the emerging trend of e-books which has greatly influenced the publishing world. e-books have given anonymity to thousands of readers who can read whatever genre they want without anyone knowing. There has been a significant amount of change in readers' tastes and book trends.

Not surprisingly, romance and women's fiction still dominate fiction

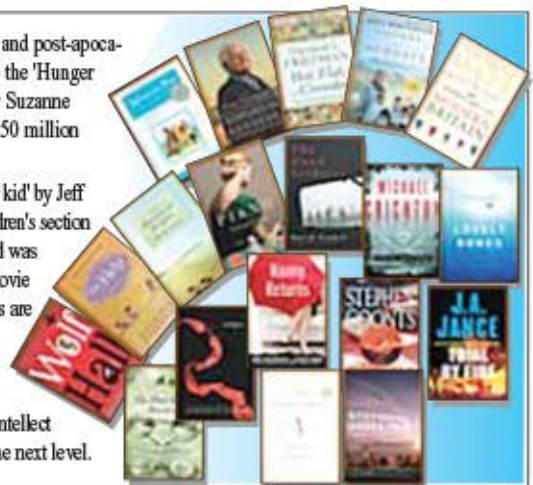
sales, but general fiction is strong. Erotic literature is one such sort that has boomed almost overnight. Fifty Shades of Grey (trilogy) by E.L. James sold over 65 million copies. Young adult fictions are selling like hot cakes. Earlier it was all about magical boarding schools. Then came the vampires which are now being replaced by mermaids. There have been 17 mermaid books so far.

Some peculiar yet interesting trends were also observed. Hyper-violent,

anti-authoritarian and post-apocalyptic novels like the 'Hunger Games' trilogy by Suzanne Collins sold over 50 million copies.

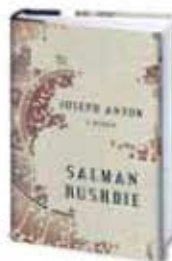
'Diary of a Wimpy kid' by Jeff Kinney in the children's section sold 75 million and was converted into a movie too. Graphic novels are also finding many takers.

The year 2013 is expected to push intellect and creativity to the next level.

**Faryal Rumi**

The most controversial writer-cum-celebrity Mr Salman Rushdie has written an autobiography 'Joseph Anton: A Memoir', his life before and after 1988. Many instances ranging from Rushdie's departure from hometown to estrangement and his familiarity with the word 'fatwa' means a legal decree handed down by Islamic religious leaders.

Through his book, Mr Rushdie has described his experience of hide and seek when Ayatollah Khomeini, political leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, had issued a murderous 'fatwa' just after the release of his book, 'The

**Joseph Anton: A Memoir**

By Salman Rushdie

Satanic Verses', which flamed the anger in people. It was on February 14, 1989 that two BBC reporters called Mr Rushdie to alert him about his death sentence for defaming and insulting the words of Quran, the Prophet and the Islam.

The name of the book has been derived from the combination of two famous writers -- Joseph Conrad and Anton Chekhov -- who are close to Mr Rushdie's heart and inspired him. Mr Rushdie used this name while he lived under high police protection force to disguise himself for over a decade when he became an unlikely symbol for the freedom to read.

INTRIGUING PASSION FOR WORDPLAY

Words are very strong. It can make things go right and wrong within a second. To become a poet and play with words is a challenge in itself. Mr Rahul Rakesh, an active online writer is the best example of a new breed of modern poets poised with same old zeal and dignity that some of the greatest poets of the past had.

As we think of poets, a very usual picture comes into mind. We consider poets to be serious and the one who has a habit of staying aloof. But Mr Rahul has proved us wrong. "You no longer need to have a stubborn look with those thick glasses to pretend to be a great poet. Instead you need to



Rahul Rakesh

have that madness of writing in you," he feels.

A small unknown step can be a turning point in one's life. The world of literature fascinated him at a very tender age. When he was nine-year-old, Mr Rahul interviewed his school transport in-charge. That interview proved to be a turning point in his life. It gave birth to his love for

writing.

Mr Rahul has now started writing online on three known websites, hubpages, blogger and wordpress, which has given his dream wings to fly. An average daily viewership of 150 readers is no gag. Two of his poems have also been published in the poetry volumes called "Reflection on a Blue Planet" which came out in the U.S. in July, 2012.

— Juhee Prasad

GANGA: AN EMBODIMENT OF SACREDNESS

Nancy Priya, Faryal Rumi and Firdaus Afreen travel through the mighty Ganges

A dip in the divine Ganges wipes out the sins of people making a route to heaven. People have believed this for ages. It is not just a river, but an embodiment of sacredness and sanctity.

A Hindu ritual is considered even more pious with the addition of water from the Ganges; in particular for the people who leave for the heavenly abode.

Evolving from the Gangotri glacier, joined by Alaknanda at Devprayag, the Ganges starts its journey with life changing gushes. Passing through Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna and Kolkata, covering around 1550 miles, it finally descends into the Bay of Bengal. Its enchanting waves by the end of the journey become calm. However, happiness transforms into sobs over the ill-treatment it faces at different junctures.

The mighty Ganga, considered a path for survival, is itself fighting for its existence today. As Ganga moves through the state of Uttar Pradesh, a continuous deterioration in the quality of water can be seen. Today, the Ganges is found to be affected by coliform (rod-shaped bacteria) whose count is at least 3,000 times higher than the standard established as safe by

the United Nations World Health Organisation. It has resulted in decline of water level to a great extent. The Ganges that had an average depth of about 197 ft. (60m) around Varanasi, has been reduced to a depth of 33 ft. (10m) at some places. The main cause for high level of coliform in Ganga is the disposal of human faeces, urine and sewage directly into the river from its originating point in Gaumukh till it reaches Haridwar via Rishikesh in Uttarakhand.

According to a study done by Uttarakhand Environment Conservation and Pollution Control

Board, Ganga water is not fit for drinking and bathing. It cannot even be used for agricultural purposes. The extent to which it has been exploited till now, it could become extinct like the Saraswati river.

Catering to the needs of around 40% of India's population in 11 states, the river bears the aggravation of huge amount of dirt and filth being thrown into it. The pace of development and rising urbanisation is striding parallel to the increasing contamination of the Ganges. A major chunk of sewage, untreated industrial effluent, run-off from chemical fertilisers and pesticides used in agriculture and huge quantities of solid waste are dumped in the river. Lakhs of people bathe in it. Besides, thousands of animal and human corpses are thrown into the river everyday, contributing to the pollution load.

As Ganga moves down through Uttar Pradesh, there is continuous deterioration of water quality at Kannauj, Kanpur, Allahabad, Vindhyachal, Varanasi and Hajipur. In Ara, the dissolved oxygen level is as low as 2.5 indicating the barrenness of the river without any life.

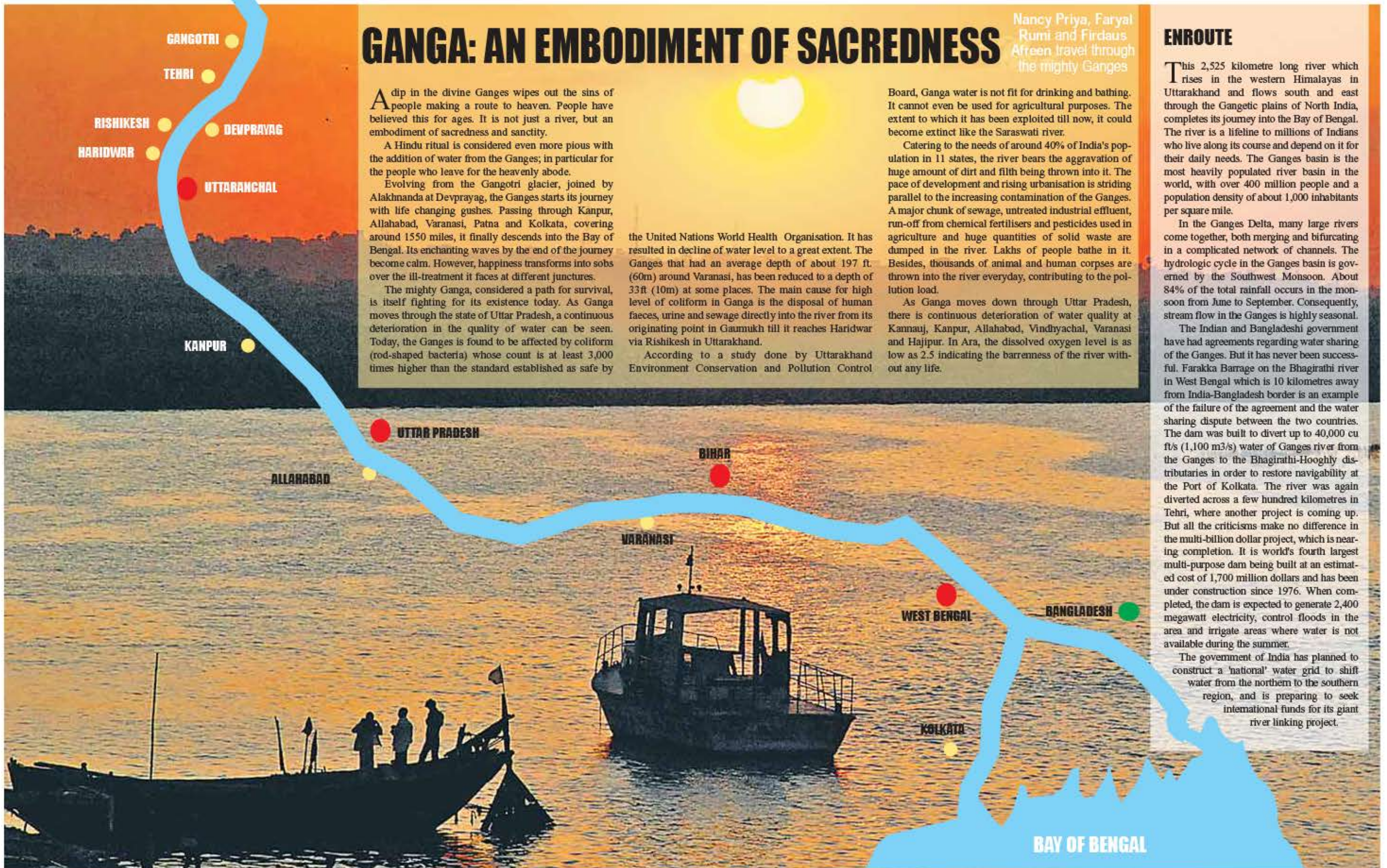
ENROUTE

This 2,525 kilometre long river which rises in the western Himalayas in Uttarakhand and flows south and east through the Gangetic plains of North India, completes its journey into the Bay of Bengal. The river is a lifeline to millions of Indians who live along its course and depend on it for their daily needs. The Ganges basin is the most heavily populated river basin in the world, with over 400 million people and a population density of about 1,000 inhabitants per square mile.

In the Ganges Delta, many large rivers come together, both merging and bifurcating in a complicated network of channels. The hydrologic cycle in the Ganges basin is governed by the Southwest Monsoon. About 84% of the total rainfall occurs in the monsoon from June to September. Consequently, stream flow in the Ganges is highly seasonal.

The Indian and Bangladeshi government have had agreements regarding water sharing of the Ganges. But it has never been successful. Farakka Barrage on the Bhagirathi river in West Bengal which is 10 kilometres away from India-Bangladesh border is an example of the failure of the agreement and the water sharing dispute between the two countries. The dam was built to divert up to 40,000 cu ft/s (1,100 m³/s) water of Ganges river from the Ganges to the Bhagirathi-Hooghly distributaries in order to restore navigability at the Port of Kolkata. The river was again diverted across a few hundred kilometres in Tehri, where another project is coming up. But all the criticisms make no difference in the multi-billion dollar project, which is nearing completion. It is world's fourth largest multi-purpose dam being built at an estimated cost of 1,700 million dollars and has been under construction since 1976. When completed, the dam is expected to generate 2,400 megawatt electricity, control floods in the area and irrigate areas where water is not available during the summer.

The government of India has planned to construct a 'national' water grid to shift water from the northern to the southern region, and is preparing to seek international funds for its giant river linking project.



ANIMALS EXTINCT

Gangetic dolphins had been crowned as India's National Aquatic Animal in 2009 and the National Dolphin Action Plan had been approved by the Indian government in 2010 to save them. However, the deterioration of Ganges water has been adversely affected on aquatic animals and plant. The Ganges dolphin is one of the only three freshwater dolphins left in the world, after the extinction of the Yangtze dolphin.

According to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), in the 1980s, there were around 3,500 dolphins in the Ganges delta region alone. The main cause behind the death of the dolphins is the disposal of untreated water and waste which the dolphin accumulates in its body. A report by WWF also says that Gangetic dolphins are divided into isolated groups because of the construction of more than 50 dams and other irrigation related projects. This makes them susceptible to inbreeding and more vulnerable to other threats because they cannot move to new areas. Dolphins trapped above a dam are exposed to poaching while below a dam are threatened by heavy pollution, increased fishing activities and vessel traffic.

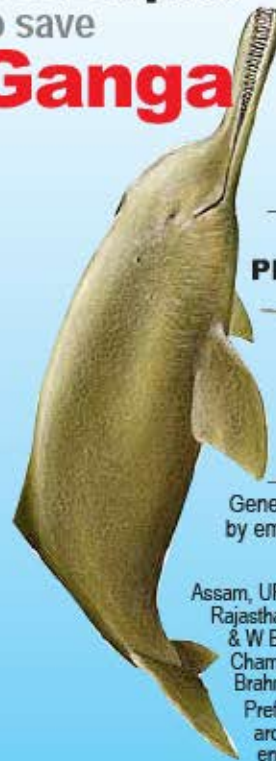
For every six to seven minutes, dolphins come out of water to breathe and get entangled in the nylon nets used by fishermen. There is no ban on the sale of cheaper and most fishermen use nylon nets. The freshwater dolphins are blind and they find their prey through echolocation. The nylon in the nets absorbs sound waves instead of reflecting them, so the dolphin gets trapped in the net.

If the voluntary restrictions or laws made by the government could not be well implemented to save the dolphins than what is the point of giving them fancy titles like National Aquatic Animal?

Mr Krishna Kant Upadhyaya, editor of Hindustan, Patna, said, "Riverine turtle keeps the Ganges water sterile and unpolluted as they chomp carcasses and algae. According to Hindu mythology, turtles were the second incarnation of Lord Vishnu to rescue Mount Mandara from sinking."

At a time, female turtle lays a clutch of between 8 and 47 eggs into a sandy river banks in October. Since turtles use river banks as

Save Dolphin to save Ganga



The Centre has declared the dolphin a national aquatic animal to save the rare freshwater species from disappearing from the country's aqua map

Know about **Platanista Gangetica**



Male grows upto 2.12m

Female grows upto 2.67m

Females give birth to only one calf once in 2-3 years.

Generally blind, they catch their prey by emitting ultrasonic sound to gauge distance, mass etc.

Assam, UP, MP, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand & W Bengal in the rivers Chambal, Sone, Kosi, Brahmaputra

Prefer deep waters in and around Indian river confluences



their basking and nesting sites, their survival and reproduction is also greatly affected by changes in the river flow regime or damaged during farming activity. It looks like the fate of riverine biodiversity and dependent communities rests on a few wise actions. We have the blue prints and the lessons learned. What we need is the will and the wisdom to put it in practice.

— Faryal Rumi

Ganga Action Plan a ray of hope

The ambitious Ganga Action Plan (GAP) by the government to save Ganges is a ray of hope. Under GAP, Rs 1,400 crore has been spent so far in creating sewage conveyance and treatment facilities. But the fact is that the river still remains polluted and in dilapidated condition. Uma Bharti, a senior BJP leader while addressing a gathering of party workers and locals at Sarsiyya Ghat during her Ganga Samagra Yatra in October 2012, had frowned that, "everybody is concerned about the plight of the Ganga, but still the pollution in the river goes unchecked. No efforts are being made to facilitate unhindered flow of the Ganga across its basin".

Launched by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in April 1986, GAP is an initiative to reduce the amount of pollution but, despite spending an estimated Rs 2,000 crore under Ganga Action Plans I and II, the sewage treatment capacity and other pollution abatement infrastructure



along the Ganges is in doldrums.

Bacterial contamination in the Ganges has exceeded the maximum permissible limit at a number of locations even as 80% of pollution in the river is due to discharge of sewage, said Jayanthi Natarajan, Union environment and forests minister, during parliament session. "...the levels of bacterial contamination in terms of fecal coliform are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit at a number of locations," she added.

The reason behind the melancholy range from industrial effluents, hydel proj-

ects to human wastes. In Varanasi, Hinduism's sacred river contains 60,000 faecal coliform bacteria per 100 millilitres, 120 times more than what is considered safe for bathing. During Kumbh Mela itself, around 130 million people visit Varanasi and contribute to the waste due to lack of toilets.

A World Bank assisted project involving an estimated amount of Rs 7,000 crores has been approved under National Ganga River Basin Authority. Rs 1,441 crore has been released towards implementation of various pollution abatement work in towns along Ganga and sewage treatment capacity of 1,091 million litres per day has been created.

The new Mission Clean Ganga approved by the National Ganga River Basin Authority mandates an investment of Rs 15,000 crore over the next 10 years to clean the river and Rs 1,500 crore will come to Bihar. Results are yet awaited.

— Nancy Priya

Chemical pollution a concern in Bihar

Faryal Rumi and Nancy Priya

In Bihar, nine electric crematorium machines were established in the year 1986 out of which eight are closed since the past seven years.

Per day, Patna discharges 400 mld (mili liter daily) of waste but the plight is that the capacity of the water treatment plants is merely 119 mld. The capacity of the four plants are - Sayyadpur Sewage System (45 mld), Beur plant (35 mld), Pahadipur plant (25 mld) and the Karmalichak plant (14 mld).

Social activist Guddu Baba alias Vikash Chandra believes that the unorganised effort of the state government adds to the devastation. Grassroots people are not connected with the initiatives.

There has been a steady deterioration in the quality of water of Indian rivers over several decades. The chemical pollution of the river Ganga in Patna City has been found somewhat alarming beside the storm drain, especially in the regions like Rajapur, Mandiri and Krishnaghat.

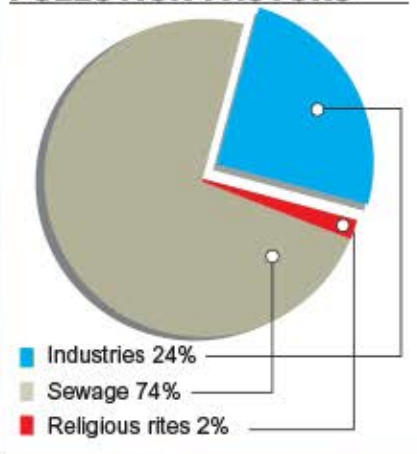
"In 2001, the Patna High Court had given clear directions not to throw human bodies into Ganges, but 135 bodies were dumped during 2010-12. It is better not to talk about disposal of animal bodies," adds Guddu Baba.

The pollution adversely affects the health of the people making them prone to the chronic diseases like cancer. "Due to discharge of effluents, including toxic industrial wastes such as arsenic, fluoride and other heavy metals skin diseases have become common," says skin disease specialist Dr Sudhanshu. A study conducted by the National Cancer Registry Programme has found that those living along the banks of the river are more prone to cancer than others in the country.

FLOODS

Floods are the solemn problem of Ganga basin during monsoon season. Since 1998 to 2009, different parts of

POLLUTION FACTORS



The chemical pollution of the river Ganga in Patna city has been found somewhat alarming beside the storm drain, especially in the regions like Rajapur, Mandiri and Krishnaghat

Bihar continuously suffered from inundation during the month of July-August. The flood depends on the characteristics of the catchment, rainfall and predecessor circumstances. So the evaluation of the flood crest is a very complex problem.

Bihar is the most flood-prone state of India. The plains of the state, adjacent to Nepal, are sapped by a number of rivers. All the sharing rivers of Bihar and Nepal have their catchments in the sheer and steep. Rivers like the Kosi, the Gandak, the Burhi Gandak, the Bagmati, the Kamla Balan, the Mahananda and the Adhwara originate in Nepal. They carry high discharge and sediment load and drop it down in the plains of Bihar. Only 35% of catchment areas lie in Bihar and the rest 65% falls in Nepal/Tibet.

The heavy rainfall in Nepal overloads the dam which reaches to the Kosi river when Kosi Barrage Pool shutters open up to protect the dam and hence, it leads to flash flood in Bihar districts.

At the 16th Ganga Flood Control

Commission (GFCC) meeting held in Delhi in January 2013, Bihar Water Resource Department (WRD) minister Mr Vijay Kumar Choudhary had expressed concern over endemic flood-related problems being faced by the state.

DAMS

Building of dams has its own impact in contrast to development. The effort is to chalk out plans to carry on hydroelectricity projects to meet the challenges on the biodiversity without affecting power production.

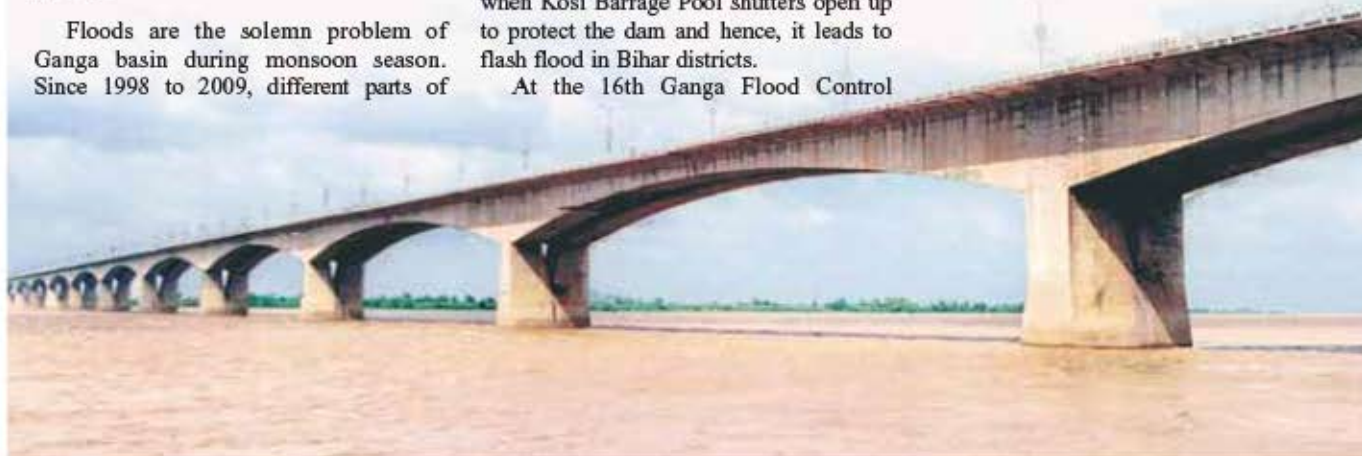
The government of India has planned about 300 dams on the Ganges and its tributaries. But, 34 dams on Alakhnanda and Bhagirathi rivers are recommended to be scrapped at the behest of a report presented by Wildlife Institute of India and environment ministry.

The report says that stopping dams is important to safeguard the environment which might cause irrevocable harm to biodiversity. The aquatic life is also not exempted and the people living near the river bank are starving due to water shortage. A CAG inspection report submitted to the Uttarakhand governor in April 2010 expresses fear that all villages settled along the river basin will be uprooted once the rivers go dry, leading to mass migration and cultural erosion.

— With inputs from
Sabeela Rasheed

SEWAGE TREATMENT CAPACITY OF PATNA

Sayyadpur sewage system	45 mld
Beur plant	35 mld
Pahadipur plant	25 mld
Karmalichak plant (not started)	14 mld
Total waste discharged per day	400 mld





Industrial units play spoilsport

Industries and factories are the major factors in the development of an economy. On the divergent, they are the main causes in the degradation of the quality of water. One of the industries that badly pollute the Ganges is leather industry, especially near Kanpur, which brings into play huge amounts of chromium and other chemicals, and much of it finds its way into the scanty flow of the Ganges.

"The condition of Ganga is pitiable near West Bengal as it is an industrial hub and the water is badly exploited. Same is the plight in Kanpur and Uttarakhnad due to leather cleaner machines and distillery factories", says Mr KK Upadhyay, editor of Hindustan, Patna.

In Haridwar district, illegal mining in the Ganges river bed for stones and sand for construction work has been a perennial problem. On June 14, 2011, a 34-year-old monk, Swami Nigamanada, who was fasting since February 19, 2011 against illegal mining and stone crushing along the Ganges near Haridwar, died at the Himalayan Hospital in Jollygrant in Dehradun after protracted coma. His death drew attention to the illegal activity and resulted in the intervention of the then Union environment minister Jairam Ramesh.

HYDEL POWER PLANTS

The skyrocketing oil prices are a big hurdle to fulfillment of the country's growing energy requirement. Although among nuclear energy, solar energy and wind

CAUSE FOR CONCERN

- Leather industry, especially near Kanpur, brings into play huge amounts of chromium and other chemicals, and much of it finds its way into the scanty flow of the Ganges
- The culminating environmental and ecological impacts of hydro-electric projects have sabotaged the development of hydel power

energy, hydel power is always a better option, the culminating environmental and ecological impacts of hydro-electric projects have sabotaged the development of hydel power.

India has high hydel power potential and can set up 1,50,000 MW capacity. Yet, we have created only about 30,000 MWs of capacity. At present, India has 74 hydropower projects in the Himalayas with an

installed capacity of 15,208 megawatts. Thirty-seven more projects are under construction while over 300 more have been planned. Tehri dam at Haridwar, world's fifth and Asia's largest hydro-electric project on the river Bhagirathi in Uttaranchal and another dam at Farakka are the two major dams on Ganga.

While both Alaknanda and Bhagirathi rivers have their origin in glaciers, their altitude is a saviour. According to experts, glaciers are in much higher altitudes, upstream and too distant to be affected by the hydropower projects. The study does not take into consideration the fact that Himalayan glaciers are retreating at a fast pace and that less water would be available in the rivers negatively impacting the hydro power projects.

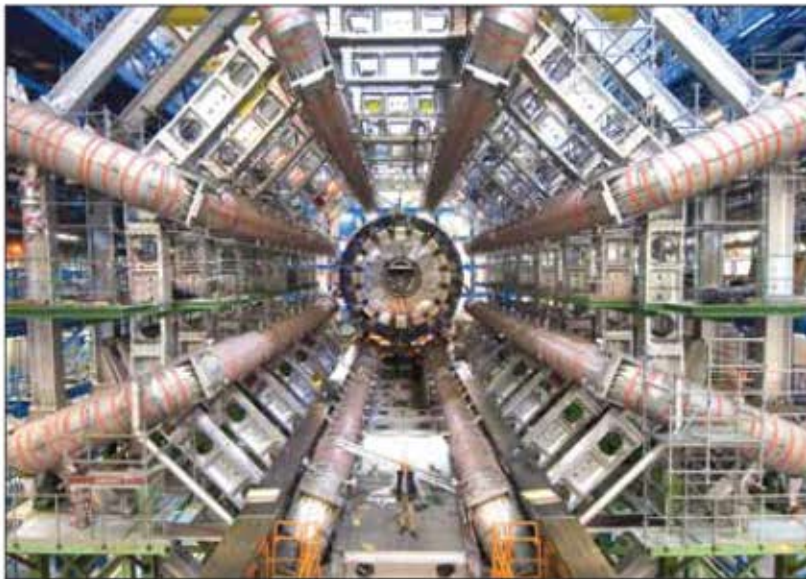
ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Ganges has been used for irrigation since ancient times. In the Ganges valley the use of irrigation canals has increased the production of cash crops such as sugarcane, cotton and oilseeds. Before the 19th century much of the Ganges was navigable, but this declined with the construction of railroads and the increasing use of water for irrigation. West Bengal and Bangladesh, however, still use the waterways to transport jute, tea, grain and other agricultural products. The hydroelectric potential of the Ganges is 13 million kilowatts, two fifths of which lies in India and the rest in Nepal.

— Faryal Rumi, Nancy Priya & Firdaus Afreen



HOW GODLY IS GOD PARTICLE?



Everything in this world is made up of building blocks of matter, known as 'atoms'. Inside atoms are electrons, protons and neutrons. They are made of quarks and other subatomic particles. These minute building blocks of the universe acquire mass without which particles would not hold together. This in turn puzzled the scientist that further led them to research over decades and finally getting a solution - 'The God Particle'.

Praveen Kumar Sharma, a scientist working at the city branch of Atomic Minerals Directorate (AMD), narrated one of the winning entries to explain the God particle. "Imagine a political gathering, with many groups of people. If someone powerful and important enters, the nearby 'cluster' gathers around her and resumes its conversation when he leaves the 'field of attraction'. This clustering explains how a particle's mass is generated. This

SN BOSE: THE INDIAN CONNECTION

A self taught not so popular Indian scientist whose work helped in formulating a new variety of particles- Boson, Satyendra Nath Bose, the man from whose surname the word 'Boson' is derived.

Satyendra Nath Bose, a student of Presidency College, Calcutta took keen interest in mathematics and science from the very beginning. Bose's first important contribution in theoretical Physics was a joint research paper with Meghnad Saha titled 'On the influence of the finite volume of molecules on the equation of state'. The duo also prepared the first book in English based on German & French translations of original papers of Einstein's special and general relativity in 1919. Bose laid the stepping stones of quantum statistics which was acknowledged by



Einstein and Paul Dirac. His work on particle statistics (1922) clarified the behaviour of photons and opened the door to new ideas.

In 1924, Bose's work on Planck's Law and the light Quantum Hypothesis was comprehended by Albert Einstein himself and published in the prestigious 'Zeitschrift fur Physik'. Consequently, Bose rose to popularity with this. He spent two years in Europe in company of greats like Einstein, Neils Bohr, Werner Heisenberg and Erwin Schrodinger.

Later, Paul Dirac coined the word 'Boson' for Bose's remarkable input in quantum physics. Today we know these particles by the name "Higgs Boson- The God Particle".

— MALAHAT JAHAN AND KRIPA KASHYAP SINGH

important personality is like the Higgs' particle," he said, adding that it can explain sudden 'disappearances' of people in science fiction and mythologies.

Consequently, it has been the target of a long search in particle physics. The scientists at

CERN (European Centre for Nuclear Research) in Geneva, Switzerland, are working on one of the most powerful particle accelerators and the most complicated scientific instruments ever built. CERN's atom smasher, the \$10-billion Large Hadron Collider

Who are we? How we came into existence? What gave mass to matter? How did the universe evolve? The search of these questions probably came to an end with the trace of God Particle, *Sabeela Rasheed and Anamika Singh report*

(LHC) on the Swiss-French border, has for years been creating high-energy collisions of protons to investigate dark matter, antimatter and the creation of the universe. Many theories have occurred in a massive explosion known as the 'Big Bang'.

The 'Higgs Boson' is named on British physicist, Peter Higgs who along with two other teams in Belgium and the United States proposed the mechanism. He suggested such a particle in 1964 and was the only one to explicitly predict the massive particle and identify some of its theoretical properties.

The experiment was a part of many theoretical equations underpinning scientists' understanding of how the world came into being. If this 'Higgs Boson' doesn't exist, then those theories would need to be fundamentally overhauled. The fact that it apparently does exist means scientists have been on the right track with their theories.

LATEST GADGETS

Gadgets, also known as gizmos, have touched almost every aspect of our daily life. And who doesn't love gadgets? Most love gadgets but few actually understand them. Being tech-savvy is the need of the hour, says *Trishita Das* as she reviews the gadgets that has hit the market recently.

MACBOOK PRO



The all-new 15-inch MacBook Pro with Retina display with a

resolution of 2880x1800 is available, starting from Rs 1,52,000 in the country. The base model comes with a 2.3 GHz quad-core Intel Core i7 processor with Turbo Boost which speeds up to 3.3 GHz, 8GB of memory and 256GB of flash storage and 1GB of Nvidia graphics card.

KODAK MINI CAMERA

Kodak Mini Camera is priced right at \$ 54 on Amazon, takes a fall very well and takes stunning HD videos (720p at 24 fps with 16:9 aspect ratio).



UNIVERSAL REMOTE



Logitech Universal Remote is one of the best and powerful universal remotes out there, with ergonomic shape, colour LCD screen, and five buttons to control other electronic devices, all in one.

KINDLE FIRE

Amazon Kindle Fire is the budget conscious version of the



ipad and with a seven-inch display which competes nicely. This tablet has a dual core processor, an Android 2.3 operating system (customized, of course) and is much more than just an eBook reader. It's priced around Rs 10,000-15,000.

THE REASON

Drastic change in climatic condition associated with weather is driving an increase in hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, searing heat and drought, and leading to more natural disasters. According to Environmental Protection Agency, the earth's temperature has seen a rise in about one degree Fahrenheit over 50 years. Urbanisation has led to a large scale deforestation resulting in high rate of CO₂ and pollutants like methane, N₂O and CFCs (Chloro Fluoro Carbons). High temperatures lead to climate change. It also damages biodiversity, resulting in extinction of animal species, plants and aquatic world. The United

NATURE NO MORE NATURAL!

Nature selflessly fulfills our needs, but there is no halt to mankind's avarice. Human beings are exploiting and tearing down the natural bionetwork which is increasing the risk of global warming at an alarming rate, *Shristy Ganguly and Nansi Pal report*

Nations Convention on Biological Diversity report has indicated that the intensity of greenhouse gases in the ecosystem is hurriedly escalating and warming the earth's surface and the lower atmosphere.

EXPERTSPEAK

Mr AK Sen, Director, Patna Meteorological Department, said: "An increase in global temperature can cause changes in climate, rise in sea level, cyclone, heat waves, drought, flood, change in



rainfall pattern etc." The recent Hurricane Sandy in United States that left several people dead besides devastating various cities, including New York, was an example, he said.

Mr Sen added that because of global temperature there is decrease in ice mass glaciers, increasing incidents of vector born diseases and drying of land.

"Global warming is mostly due to natural internal variability, and that the climate system is quite insensitive to humanity's greenhouse gas emissions," Dr Spencer, principal research scientist for the University of Alabama in Huntsville, was quoted as saying in a global publication.

MINING A MENACE



What is the shortcut to becoming a billionaire? Ask Madhu Koda, the former Chief Minister of Jharkhand who earned an unbelievable Rs 4,300 crore in just two years. But the irony is he does not inspire as much as Sushil Kumar (the winner of Kaun Banega Crorepati season 5). Koda is charged with six criminal cases, including multi-crore mining scam. The recent Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report claiming a loss of Rs 1.86 lakh crore in the allocation of coal mines is yet another surprise for the people of India. Today, illegal mining has become a major source for ministers and money launders to earn a great fortune. Following are the examples:

“

We have launched many anti-mining drives and our efforts are bearing fruit as no new case has come up recently

MANU MAHARAJ
Rohtas SP

”

- In Odisha, it was unearthed during the tenure of Mr Navin Patnaik as Chief Minister
- The biggest dirty mining scam had happened in Karnataka in 2012. The scam was detected during Mr BS Yeddyurappa's tenure as CM
- Another instance of mining fraud was witnessed a few months back in Madhya Pradesh when Mr Narendra Kumar, an IPS officer, was crushed to death by illegal miners on March 9, 2012
- Over 12 stone crushing units have been illegally running in Rohtas and Kaimur districts allegedly in collusion with the officials of mines and irrigation department.

— Nancy Priya, Faryal Rumi

Kumari Ruchi,
Anu Meha

Bihar is going to attire green - the colour of prosperity. Expectations are high with the launch of agriculture roadmap of Bihar. And when Mr Pranab Mukherjee, the President of India, inaugurated the state government's ambitious project and termed it as the pathway for next green revolution, it did amplify the hopes.

In a state where almost 81% of the population is employed in agricultural activities to earn livelihood, it is essential to boost rural infrastructure. Mr Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar asserts that the agricultural roadmap (2012-17) is the first-of-its-kind in the country. It will focus on development of food processing, food preservation, fisheries and animal husbandry.

With a view to attaining the growth of 7% in agriculture, an agri-cabinet has been set up in the state. The cabinet is comprised of 18 representatives from various departments. A resource management committee has also been constituted under the chairmanship of Mr A K Sinha, Chief Secretary, to ensure better coordination among the departments concerned. The plan is to set up new cold storages and separate feeders for

BIHAR GOES GREEN



President Mr Pranab Mukherjee and Chief Minister Mr Nitish Kumar at the launch of agriculture roadmap in Patna.

supply of electricity for agriculture. Efforts would be made for making alternative arrangements for irrigation and revival of traditional resources of irrigation. "To meet the challenge arising out of climatic change, scientists in the state have been asked to develop such technology which would reduce the adverse impact on farming," said the CM. Apart from defining and planning the roadmap, the most challenging task in front of the state government is to accumulate the funds. Approximately, an investment of Rs 1.52 lakh

crore is needed to meet the requirements. Public and private sectors are expected to inflow funds up to Rs 1.3 lakh crores and Rs 20,525 crores, respectively.

The roadmap also envisages evergreen 'rainbow revolution' by improving the condition of foodgrain, horticulture, dairy, plantation, fruits and vegetables.

GREEN DRIVE

The mission is to plant more than 13 crore saplings along roadsides and riverbanks in the next five years.

The Bihar government has come up with a massive scheme to increase the green cover in the state. It aspires to increase forest area from 9.89% to 15% in the next five years. The forestation scheme was formally launched by Chief Minister Mr Nitish Kumar on the World Environment Day, June 5 2012. "In 2012-13, a total of 36,000 km of roads would be constructed across the state and with an average of 160 trees per km, the department targets to plant another 3.5 crore saplings," Rural Development Minister Mr Nitish Mishra told Headway. "Apart from increasing the green cover, the plantation activities would also provide employment opportunities to the rural population," he added.



This small town girl mesmerised the country with her melodious voice in *Indian Idol 6* contest. Though Reetika Raj finished fifth, she won hearts of the judges and the audiences by presenting an array of songs. Sunanda Jha talks to the singing sensation of Patna...

'Meeting Lata Di a stepping stone for me'

Were you interested in music from the beginning?

No, earlier I used to learn dance, but people there exhorted me to take up music

Who is your music teacher?

I learn music from my school-teacher Pandit Saroj Das. He is from Kolkata and teaches music so well. I don't need to go out for music lessons.

Does the result of Indian Idol 6 disappoint you?

Absolutely not. I had only gained in terms of learning from such a honourable jury members of music industry. We built a bonding with the judges.

How did you feel after meeting Lata Mangeskar?

I felt blessed to meet the nightingale of India. At this point of my life, it was one of my greatest achievements.

What did you learn from Lata Di as a person?

I learned the biggest lesson of my life from her - humbleness. We spent four hours with the living Goddess of music. She even served us the food. She is down to earth.

Did you receive any offer after that?

Yes, I performed in many stage shows, including government shows at Rajgir Mahotsava and Sitamarhi Mahotsava. I am being paid for my shows and my parents take care of that.

Apart from Bihar, do you get any other opportunities to perform?

Yeah, I got offers from Bengal and other states, but I would not be available all the time as I have to complete my studies also.

Your experience while working with channel head of Sony during selection of junior Indian Idol.

Along with channel head Satish Dutt and Anand Kumar, I had also participated in selecting contestant for junior Indian Idol.

What are your plans about further studies?

We are planning to move to Mumbai after my Class 9 examinations. I want to pursue my career in media studies.



PRATYAY AMRIT

Secretary
Road Construction Department

The road sector exemplifies Bihar's great comeback story under the Nitish Kumar government, and Pratyay Amrit, 44, has probably made the most important contribution for the

THE MAN BEHIND ROAD REVOLUTION IN BIHAR

makeover in the road sector. A 1991 Bihar cadre IAS officer, he is presently the Secretary of Road Corporation Department. He joined the corporation in Bihar in the year 2007 and the rest is just history. He led the organisation from bankruptcy to profit. In 2011, he was picked by Government of India in the individual category for the 'Prime Minister's Excellence Award in Public Administration'. Headway journalist Sabeela Rasheed talks to him.

Sir, please tell me about your school and college life.

I did my schooling in Muzaffarpur, Asansol and Delhi. My graduation and post-graduation from Hindu

College, Delhi University.

What inspired you to go for the civil services?

It was my childhood dream.

What brought you back to your home state, Bihar?

I was on Central Deputation in New Delhi from November, 2001 to April, 2006. Then I received a call from the Bihar government asking me if I would like to come back to Bihar. I instantly agreed to serve in my home-state.

Under your supervision, over 336 bridge projects were executed in just 3 years. How did you achieve this?

I would give the credit to our honourable Chief Minister, Mr Nitish Kumar who entrusted us as the members of RCD. Initially there were some problems. I called up a meeting and drew a list of all pending projects, set their deadlines and told the staff that they would be rewarded if the task would be completed or else they could be punished. And by God's grace, carrot-and-stick formula worked.

What are your future plans?

We have a target of connecting each part of Bihar to Patna by a maximum time limit of 5-hour drive. We are aiming to complete all the projects by 2015.



LOVE KNOWS NO BOUNDS

PIC: SNEHA VERMA



DEVOTION

PIC: SAMRIDHI DIKSHIT



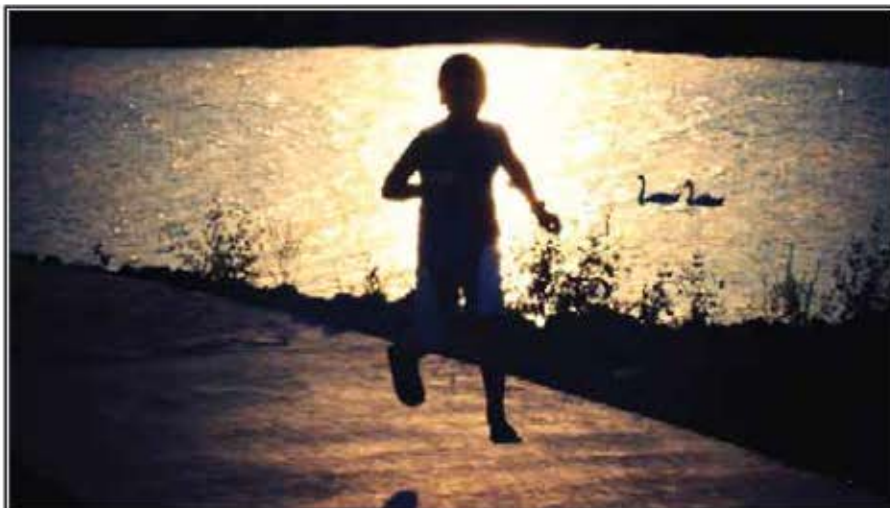
WANNA HAVE A LIFT?

PIC: SAMRIDHI DIKSHIT



MUDCAKES FOR FOOD

PIC: SNEHA VERMA



IN NATURE'S LAP

PIC: NIKITA TANDON



DANCING DIVA

PIC: ANU MEHA

NOBEL PRIZE

MEN OF HONOUR

Since 1901, the Nobel Prize has been awarded to men and women from all corners of the globe for outstanding achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and for work in peace. In 1968, economic sciences was added to the list of fields.

2012 NOBEL LAUREATES PHYSICS



Mr Serge Haroche and Mr David J. Wineland for ground-breaking experimental methods that enable measuring and manipulation of individual quantum systems

Wineland for ground-breaking experimental methods that enable measuring and manipulation of individual quantum systems

CHEMISTRY



Mr Robert J. Lefkowitz and Mr Brian K. Kobilka for studies of G-Protein-Coupled Receptors

Brian K. Kobilka for studies of G-Protein-Coupled Receptors

MEDICINE



Sir John B. Gurdon and Mr Shinya Yamanaka for the discovery that mature cells can be reprogrammed to become pluripotent

for the discovery that mature cells can be reprogrammed to become pluripotent

LITERATURE



Mr Mo Yan first ever Chinese literature Nobel laureate, recognised for merging hallucinatory realism with folk tales, history and the contemporary

recognised for merging hallucinatory realism with folk tales, history and the contemporary

PEACE



European Union (EU) for Contribution to the Advancement

of Peace and Reconciliation, Democracy and Human Rights in Europe

ECONOMIC SCIENCES



Mr Alvin E. Roth and Mr Lloyd S. Shapley for

"The Theory of Stable Allocations and The Practice of Market Design"

— Compiled by Malahat Jahan

THE EXPECTATIONS

FISCAL CLIFF

A series of spending cuts and tax raises is Obama's first challenge

UNEMPLOYMENT

Increase in unemployment rate from 6.8% in 2008 to 7.9% is a crunch issue

TERRORISM

Assassination of Osama bin Laden won him plus points. Terror attacks in Afghanistan are yet to be tackled

IMMIGRATION

Major reforms in immigration laws are expected from him



Nancy Priya

When Barack Hussain Obama sung the song of hope in Chicago on the night of triumph, the whole crowd in the hall danced with him without missing a single beat. But, the celebration was not dazzling enough as it was in 2008 when a man from Honolulu (Hawaii) won the hearts of the millions and became the first visibly black president of the United States of America.

A marginal victory by 2% of popular votes over his Republican counterpart Mitt Romney reflects that this second chance is even more crucial for Obama.

Now that the election is over and the people of America have given Obama four more years to accomplish his promises, a huge heap of challenges lie ahead. His major concerns would be looming economic slowdown, high unemployment, foreign policy in Middle-East, reform in tax code and immigration laws and passing the legislations in the House of Representatives where Republicans are in majority.

Economy is on the top of list and next to it is the unemployment rate which is as high as 7.9%. To unleash the nation from 'fiscal cliff', Obama will have to bridge the

gap between Red America and Blue America who are at odds over policies like spending cuts and raising taxes.

"In the coming weeks and months, I am looking forward to reaching out and working with leaders of both parties to meet the challenges we can only solve," Obama said in his victory speech.

ROMNEY: THE TOUGH CHALLENGER

Mitt Romney, the Former Governor of Massachusetts (2003-2007) and US Congressman (1999-present), launched his second candidacy for the presidency of the United States in a bid to win the 2012 US presidential election. He proved a strong contender



in the election and it was a close race for presidency but he failed to win the hearts of Americans and replace Obama.

First and foremost cause of Romney's failure in the US Presidential election

may be the Bush legacy. The Republican Party has lost its charm since Bush era. Internal economic crisis, high unemployment, slow economic growth and terrible foreign policy in Bush era were the major factors in the fall of Republican Party. — Sabeela Rasheed

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detrimental to the profitability of Indian IT companies.

India, like the whole world, is also concerned about the reforms in the world's largest economy, and waiting for positive economic activities with fingers crossed.

Yet, not everything seems to be bad. Obama administration's stand on the issue of cross-border terrorism is in favour of India and the nuke-deal is also expected to be boosted.

JASMINE REVOLUTION

A GENERATION AWAKENS

Malahat Jahan/ Kumari Ruchi

The success of the popular uprising in Tunisia that remonstrated against corruption, poverty and political repression forcing President Zine al-Abidine Bint Ali to step down in January 2011 came to be known in the media as the "Jasmine Revolution," which inspired a wave of similar protests throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

Jasmine Revolution spread across the region, with unprecedented street demonstrations in Algeria, Lebanon, Jordan, Mauritania, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Yemen, Sudan, Iraq, Bahrain, Libya, Kuwait, Morocco, Western Sahara, Syria, Iranian Kuzestan. The movements may have appeared leaderless but they shared a common thread - the rising expectations of a younger generation against the fear of autocratic leaders. The single spark that ignited the protests, from Rabat to Cairo to Sanaa to Tripoli is unemployment. The jobless rate for young Arabs is 25%, compared to a world average of 14%, according to the Brookings Institution.

The insurrections are accountable for more than lakhs of deaths. The death toll in Tunisia rose to 338. The situation in Egypt differed from that of Libya with military enjoying public support. As a result the government was overthrown, Hosni Mubarak sentenced to life in prison.



TERRORISTS WREAK HAVOC

Sunanda Jha and Shruti Shiksha recall major terror attacks that shook the world in 2012



February 13: Attacks on Israeli diplomats after a bomb explosion on an Israeli diplomatic car in New Delhi, India left one embassy staff member and three others injured. Another bomb planted in a car in Tbilisi, Georgia was defused by Georgian police.

July 23: At least 116 people were killed in bombings and gun attacks across Iraq in a coordinated surge of violence against mostly Shi'ite Muslim targets. The deadliest attacks occurred north of Baghdad, where insurgents attacked an army post near Dhuluiya and set off at least seven car bombs in nearby Taji, killing 48 and leaving scores injured. Explosions rocked the capital's Sadr City neighbourhood, as well as Kirkuk, Mosul, Samarra, Dujail, Khan Bani Saad City, Tuz Khormato and Diwaniyah.

Aug 14: Three suicide bombers struck in the city of Zaranj, near the border with Iran, killing 36 and injuring around 130 others. A motorcycle bomb in Kunduz Province killed 12 and left 30 wounded. A district governor and his four guards were killed in an ambush in Badakhshan Province and four children were killed in a blast in Paktika Province.

Aug 16: At least 52 people were killed and 177 injured in attacks across Baghdad, with most casualties from two car bombings in the predominantly Shi'ite districts of Zaafaraniya and Sadr City. Numerous other attacks took place across the central and northern parts of the country, killing 76 and injuring 240 others.

Sept 11: The US ambassador to Libya and three other



Americans were killed by an angry crowd storm in the Libyan city of Benghazi. The protesters were angered by a US produced film ridiculing Islam.

September 3: At least two people died when suicide bombers rammed their car into a US diplomatic vehicle in the north-western Pakistani city of Peshawar.

Oct 26: A suicide bomber wearing a police uniform detonated his explosive vest near the entrance of a mosque in Maymana, capital of Afghanistan's Faryab Province. At least 41 people were killed, including 19 members of the security forces. More than 50 others were injured.

Oct 27: Insurgents launched a string of deadly attacks across central and northern Iraq during the Eid al-Adha holiday, killing 46 and leaving 123 injured. At least 31 were killed in four separate bombings in Baghdad, while 6 died in Taji in two other blasts. Shootings and attacks occurred in Mosul, Tuz Khormato and Muqadadiyah as well.

Nov 28: Twin car bombings killed at least 54 and injured more than 120 others in the Christian and Druze city of Jaramana, near the Syrian capital Damascus. The city has been the target of three similar attacks since August.

Nov 29: A series of bombings in Iraq killed at least 48 and left more than 200 others injured. The deadliest incident was in Hilla, where a suicide car bombing at a restaurant killed 32 and wounded 138 others. Other attacks took place in Karbala, Fallujah, Baghdad and Mosul.

Dec 16: A string of attacks across northern Iraq killed 19 civilians and left almost 80 others injured. Most of the casualties were from a series of blasts in Kirkuk, where at least 11 died and 65 others were injured. Other incidents took place in Mosul, Tarmiyah, Jalula and Diwaniyah.

Dec 17: Attacks rocked central and northern Iraq, killing at least 92 and injuring 227 others. Twin bombings north of Baghdad killed 12 and wounded 44, while other blasts in Tuz Khormato killed 11 and injured 45. Numerous other incidents took place in Mosul, Kirkuk, Dujail, Tikrit and Baqubah, among others. Most of the attacks appeared to target police officers and members of the Iraqi Army.

Dec 30: A suicide car bomber targeting a bus convoy near Quetta killed 20 pilgrims and left 24 wounded. Officials in Peshawar discovered the bodies of 21 local militia members kidnapped by insurgents a few days earlier. At least one of the soldiers has survived in critical condition, while another escaped earlier.

GROWTH PLUMMETS AS SLOWDOWN HITS WORLD ECONOMY

Neha Kumari and Jyoti Sharma

The concept of price mechanism would never have been better understood than now. The changing economic scenario worldwide has chummed the economists everywhere. However, the impact of this global problem seems to be all the more evident in India at present. We as a nation were boasting of strong economy during American and European economic crisis, our nation was fighting to adjust to our baseless assertion. The truth, howsoever covered and bitter, ultimately comes to light. Thus is the situation today when Rupee eventually bowed down all the more lower in front of dollar, where the demand was to stand upright. The whole world is going through a rough phase as its economy is constantly degrading over the past few years, hence contributing to inflationary pressures.

The Indian rupee had hit an all time low of 57.33 levels to the dollar recently. Earlier the growing economy promised that jobs for young professionals would be created and the poverty will gradually decrease. However, after the downfall of economy, this situation tends to be an illusion.



When recession came globally the Indian foreign investment merely stopped. This is one of the major reasons for the slow economic growth.

The poor food supply chain is also the reason of economic slowdown in the country and it further creates inflation in the economy. If we talk about the investment, in the recession period, no one invested their money during that period and also the invested money was taken back from the market. This shows why the foreign investment stopped.

These are the various causes which resulted in economic slowdown in the country.

Focussing on the economic slowdown in 2012, the BRIC summit, consisting of BRIC Nations (BRAZIL, RUSSIA, INDIA and CHINA) paid attention on the primary role of G-20. This was done in order to enable microeconomic policy, global economic recovery and secure financial stability.

The BRIC summit held in Delhi had one main focus and that was the economic slowdown which has completely hampered the rate of growth. BRIC nations which have emerged as five emerging economies of the world, have potential for the future economic development. These economies are considered as the fastest growing economies and are projected to overtake the US-led developed economies. But the global economic slowdown has also disrupted the growth of BRIC nations.

So a large number of preventive measures have been taken to get global growth back on track. The BRIC Nation decided to work with international community so that the global financial condition get improved.

Corporatisation ruining media houses in India

In this era of rapid development and globalisation, I believe Gandhian principles are relevant and his treasured ideas will guide us through ages. Though today's world is different from Gandhian era, but the pertinence of his principles still hold forth. The young India needs to realise it at the earliest.

Mahatma Gandhi was a political leader, economist, philosopher, religious reformer, educationist and a great journalist of wisdom. He conferred to us three guiding principles: Ahimsa, Satyagraha and Sarvodaya. It is the values of these principles that we have to rediscover if we want to deal effectively with today's challenges.

He believed that "the sole aim of journalism should be service. The true function of journalism is to educate the public mind and read the mind of the country and to give definite and fearless expression to that mind."

But, nowadays I feel that corporatisation has taken over journalism. Media is said to be the fourth pillar or the fourth estate of democracy, when the three pillars fail media comes to play. But, now media has only become a business which is being driven by the rich corporate houses. The role of media is to "awaken the society and not ruin it". In my opinion, today the media is selling the minds of the youth.

Gandhiji's preachings are not just message, but rather a conduct he himself went through his whole life. He believed that journalism should be founded on truth and non-violence and should be used as a weapon for social transformation.

Guest column



Dr Razi Ahmed
A Gandhian

“The true function of journalism is to educate the public mind and read the mind of the country and to give fearless expression to that mind”

advertisements as far as it does not endanger the values of news.

Some media houses tried to spoil Anna Hazare's image during the recent mass movement against corruption. Hazare was going on the right track until opportunists like Arvind Kejriwal and Baba Ramdev entered the scene and destroyed his image.

These people are supported by corporate houses. Now, Hazare is fading in the picture and others have come in the frame. It has now become protest of the elite class and India can neither support nor afford it.

Therefore, I would like to conclude by saying that our forefathers had sowed seeds for a gentle society. Now, the responsibility lies on the shoulders of youth. Whether they keep the society knitted or not is their prerogative now. Youth is the only solution and they should prove themselves as assets of the nation.

— As told to **Shruti Shiksha and Kripa Kasyap Singh**

Gandhiji's journals 'Indian Opinion', 'Harijan', 'Navajivan' and 'Young India' carry great and valuable messages to publishers, journals and journalists.

He was against sensationalising news and wrote the truth without exaggeration or distortion. He never gave a thought to earning revenue. A journalist is a crusader and is levied with social responsibility. When Gandhiji was in South Africa, he started a newspaper called Indian Opinion but did not carry any advertisement in that. But, today the sad reality is that media is more of a market and is revenue driven.

In this era of globalisation, I am also not against

HEALTHY LIFE

Patna, which had the dubious distinction of being a 'city of conservative people', today boasts of several new generation institutes. Vesta is one such institute that makes the saying 'Slow and steady wins the race' a truth. Today Patna is about to uplift its optimistic style and uphold new vogue. **Samridhi Dikshit** and **Kriti Sonali** talk to Ms Shivani Tandon, owner of Vesta, a fitness institute.

What was your vision behind starting Vesta?

The growing consciousness to stay fit and healthy made me to initiate an old form with a new technique. In this stressful life, Vesta provides some relaxation, fun and entertainment.

What does Vesta mean and what service does it offer to people?

Vesta means rebirth or reincarnation. We at Vesta focus on overall personality development, grooming and enhancing one's personality, making it different from all other institutes in Patna. Apart from yoga and aerobics, the institute also teaches healthy cooking, drawing, painting and various dance forms, such as 'salsa', contemporary and hip-hop.

Is there any age barrier for interested people?

People of all age groups are welcome here. A housewife, working woman, boys, girls, anybody can come and enjoy the freedom of being him or herself. Nowadays, life has become so hectic and full of pressure. Thus, fit body and healthy mind is a must for all.

How important is exercising?

Exercise releases stress of all day work, music soothes the entire soul and Yoga helps in calmness. A mixture of all these provides a person with good mental and physical balance. Thus, exercise is necessary to stay stress-free and calm so that one can excel in all phases of life.



Guest column



Mr Pradeep Jain
Aero philatelist

In this tech-savvy world I still prefer the snail-mail form of communication.

Hailing from Patna in Bihar, I have nurtured my hobby from the early life to a full-time profession. It is my passion and I try not to miss any opportunity I get to promote Philately, especially in my state of Bihar.

Exhibiting my collection makes me feel proud. Ameripex-86 in USA is where I got the chance to exhibit for the first time and then there was no looking back. Capex-96 (Canada), Istanbul-97 (Turkey), Pacific-97 (USA), are to name a few. I got to represent India and was even made the Indian commissioner for the stamp exhibition held in Singapore in 1995 and then rest is history.

For the younger generation I would like to clarify that there is a great difference between a stamp collector and a philatelist. A stamp collector collects stamps as a hobby which he forgoes after a period of time while a philatelist is the one who gets deep into the subject and does a lot of research.

Things have changed drastically over years. The younger generation has better communication means like internet and mobiles unlike our times where letter writing was the tool to communicate.

If today anybody takes philately as their profession, they can get the required infor-

mation easily and quickly. Stamp collection has become more organised. The collectors can have easy access to post offices, bureaus and stamp dealers. The desired items are within the reach for a collector.

My hobby-turned-passion has given me a lot in my life. Being awarded with the highest state honour "Bihar Ratna" has added to my zeal, motivating me to write a book called "Indian Airmails Development and Operation 1911-1942". The book was released by the then President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. All my achievements make me feel happy that I stuck to my hobby.

I have an earnest request to all the parents that alongwith academics, hobbies should also be given equal importance. Who knows what lies in the future? I am glad I was given a push to carry on my hobby which later became an addiction. I stand proud today as I see my son Pragya Kothari Jain carrying forward my legacy. His collection on Grey Goose Wings deals with various aspects of archery. Philately I believe has a safe future, but still there is need to attract young people as stamp collection gives a deep insight about our past and is very informative.

Day by day old philatelic items are getting rare and hard to find, thus making this field a challenge for the newcomers.

— As told to Purna Jalan

“ A stamp collector collects stamps as a hobby while a philatelist gets deep into the subject and does a lot of research ”

A MASTER OF PHILATELY





Every coin has two sides. SWATI SINHA AND PRERNA JALAN review both the sides of the feud between the Ambani brothers and how it airs its waves in the Indian economy, both positively and negatively

BROTHERS SPAR, INDUSTRY SUFFERS!

What should it be — truce or war? Which path will benefit the Indian Economy? Mukesh and Anil, the Ambani brothers are like two flags waving away from each other. If they join hands leaving behind all their differences will it act as a pill or poison is what the argument is all about.

Family disputes among corporate houses in India and the world threaten the economy largely. The row between Mr Mukesh and Mr Anil Ambani has become a matter of national interest. The two brothers are among the key players of industrial sector, together contributing almost 7% of India's GDP. So the adverse impact of their disparity is obvious. Indian economy is a growing market but we continue to face inflation, stagflation and in this situation reunion of these two business conglomerates may act as a recovery pill.

Mr Mukesh Ambani, chairman and MD, Reliance Industries, is India's richest man with a personal fortune of 22.3 billion dollars while his younger brother Mr Anil Ambani, chairman of Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, has a worth of 7.8 billion dollars and had been awarded the businessman of the year award 2006 by The Times of India. Despite their global successes, they are locked in a pungent discussion over the gas contract. Senior Ambani led Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Mr Anil Ambani led Reliance Natural Resources Limited (RNRL) are fighting over price and terms of gas sup-

ply from Krishna-Godavari (KG) Basin.

In 2002, the Reliance group had a turnover of Rs 620 billion, but the rift between the two brothers became a matter of concern to more than 3.3 million shareholders of Reliance group, and consequently, it saw a gradual decrease in the share prices.

Money makes money is one of the golden rules of economics. Today industrial sector contributes approximately 29.1% in total GDP of India. If the Industrial sector grows, its contribution will increase too, ultimately aiding the growth of India's GDP.

Now as we judge the other side of the coin, it can be said that the Indian economy is huge and is not based on the Ambani brothers. It is a much bigger picture, and therefore, will not be affected by their antagonism.

Anyway, it is always better to forego a conflict. In order to avoid any further discord, they can work separately and explore new fields benefiting the society differently. The chances of growth of the industrial sector will increase. Being competitors they will put in all their blood to outreach each other but the truth will not change that they are siblings and will maintain a healthy competition.

In the world economy, investors always look for new places to build companies, create jobs and facilitate new social development. The reunion of these two business tycoons will help the industrial sector more and also give reasons to foreign investors to invest in our country.

WHAT AILS AI AND KINGFISHER?

With employees of two of India's largest air operators - Air India and Kingfisher - resorting to frequent strikes, the aviation industry is losing its grip. *Nikita Tandon and Faryal Rumi* analyse the crisis

KINGFISHER

- The market share of Kingfisher Airlines (KFA), India's second largest carrier, fell to 3.4% by the end of July 2012
- DGCA suspended KFA's flying license or scheduled operator's permit (SOP) on October 20, 2012
- Mr Vijay Mallaya, a liquor baron who also owns Formula One (F1) and Indian Premier League (IPL) teams, is heavily indebted
- The airline is unable to get additional loans from banks as they failed to repay the debt of Rs 7,500 crore and incurred debt-dues-losses of Rs 14,000 crore.
- In June 2012, when a series of cheques issued by the airline bounced, GVK and Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) filed cases against KFA
- Faced with crisis, Mr Mallaya finally decided to sell 49% stake of liquor maker Diageo in Whyte & Mackey

AIR INDIA

- The demands for better career and pay parity forced the pilots of Air India to go on strike on May 7
- In a major blow to the striking Air India pilots, the Delhi High Court termed their strike "illegal" on May 9, 2012
- As the strike entered its seventh day, 14 international AI flights had to be cancelled, causing major inconvenience to hundreds of passengers.
- The crisis worsened when passengers alleged that they had not been given the refund by the airline against their booked tickets after the cancellation of flights
- Finally, on July 3, 2012, the strike was withdrawn. Delhi High Court asked the pilots to join duty within 48 hours

In the year 2012, many prominent personalities from various fields breathed their last. Kriti Sonali pays homage to the departed souls

RAJESH KHANNA (1942-2012)



He was a Bollywood actor, film producer and politician. He was referred to as the 'first superstar' of Indian cinema. Khanna, better known as Kaka, earned these titles following 15 consecutive solo hit films in the 1970s, a record that remains unbroken.

PANDIT RAVI SHANKAR (1920-2012)



Famous composer and musician, Sitarবাদক Pandit Ravi Shankar was described as the best-known contemporary Indian musician. Shankar was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna, in 1999, and received three Grammy Awards.

VERGHESE KURIEN (1921-2012)



He is best known as the 'Father of the White Revolution' or 'Milkman of India'. Kurien was an engineer and renowned social entrepreneur. With his 'billion-litre idea' or Operation Flood, he initiated the world's biggest agricultural development programme.

ANTHONY PRABHU GONSALVES (1927-2012)



He was an Indian musical composer and teacher who made an attempt to amalgamate the symphonies of his Goan heritage with the Hindustani melodies and rhythms in films. A few examples of his work are B R Chopra's *Naya Daur*, *Waqt*, Naushad's *Dillagi* and Chetan Anand's *Haqeeqat*.

DARA SINGH (1928-2012)



Wrestler-turned-actor was often addressed by various names as Rustam-E-Punjab, Rustam-E-Hind, Ironman of Indian cinema, etc. Due to his physique, he was encouraged to take up 'pehwani', an Indian style of wrestling. He was liked more in the role of 'Bheem Sen' and 'Hanuman'.

YASH RAJ CHOPRA (1932-2012)



He is better known as the 'King of romance' of the Indian cinema. The legendary director won several national and filmfare awards in his illustrious career in Bollywood. He was also honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2001 and the Padma Bhushan in 2005.

RAJ KANWAR (1961-2012)



A veteran Bollywood film director, writer and film producer whose directorial debut was *Deewana* in which Shahrukh Khan debuted. He died due to a kidney ailment in Singapore. It was Kanwar who had spotted actors like Lara Dutta and Priyanka Chopra.

LAXSHMI SANGAL (1914-2012)



Captain Laxshmi Sangal was an army officer and revolutionist of the Indian Independence movement. She was the minister of women's affairs in the Azad Hind government. She died owing to a cardiac arrest.

JASPAL SINGH BHATTI (1955-2012)



Bhatti, a director, producer and actor, was famous for his satirical take on the problems of the common man. Few of his notable works include *Uta Puta*, *Nonsense Private Limited*, *Flop Show* and *Full Tension*. He died in a car accident while driving back from Bhatinda to Jalandhar.

JOY MUKHERJEE (1939-2012)



An Indian film actor and director who debuted in the film *Love in Simla* (1960). The film was directed by R K Nayyar. Later, paired with Asha Parekh, he gave several hits like *Phir Wohi Dil Laya Hoon*, *Love in Tokyo* and *Ziddi*. His last success was *Chaila Babu*.

VILASRAO DESHMUKH (1945-2012)



Deshmukh was two-time chief minister of Maharashtra, from 1999 to 2003 and 2004 to 2008. Critically ill with kidney and liver failures, Deshmukh died due to multiple organ failure at Global Hospitals, Chennai. He was also a minister in UPAlI government.

BAL KESHAV THACKERAY (1926-2012)



Lakhs of Mumbaikars bid tearful adieu to Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackeray who died due to a cardiac arrest. The entire Maharashtra came to a grinding halt. His followers called him the *Hindu Hriday Samraat* (Emperor of Hindu hearts).

AGHALA SACHDEV (1920-2012)



The legendary song *Ae meri zohra jabeen* was picturised on her. She was an Indian film actress who started her career as a child actor and later played mother and grandmother roles in Hindi films. A few of them are *Ditwale Dutharia*, *Le Jayenge*, *Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham*, etc.

ASHOK MEHTA (1947-2012)



The twice National Film Award winner for Best Cinematography, Ashok Mehta was noted for his excellent work in the Indian film industry. Early in 2012, he was diagnosed with lung cancer and died due to the same.

INDER KUMAR GUJRAL (1919-2012)



After a prolonged illness, former Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral breathed his last. Gujral was the second member from Rajya Sabha who went on to become the Prime Minister of India. The first being his immediate predecessor H D Deve Gowda.

TARUNI SACHDEV (1998-2012)



The 'Rasna girl' died on her 14th birthday in a plane crash in Nepal. She was one of the busiest child models in the industry and had acted along with Amitabh Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan and Vidya Balan in *Paa* (2009).

AWTAR KISHAN HANGAL (1917-2012)



He was an Indian freedom fighter, who later started his acting career as stage actor and then came to work in Bollywood. Padmabhushan Hangal had notable roles in films like *Asaina*, *Shaukeen*, *Namak Haraam*, *Sholay*, *Manzil* and *Prem Bandhan*.

MEHDI HASSAN KHAN (1927-2012)



Pakistani Ghazal maestro, addressed as 'voice of God' by Lata Mangeshkar, died due to chest infection. He is famously known as the 'King of Ghazal'. In 1979, he was awarded K L Saigal Sangeet Shehenshah Award by the Government of India.

TASTE OF BIHAR



Ankita, Nupur, Ruchika, Isha,

Maner ka laddoo, Gaya ka tilkut, Barh ki lai, Silao ka khaja. Aren't your taste buds tickling?

Bihari cuisine is predominantly vegetarian because traditional Bihari society is influenced by Buddhist and Hindu values of non-violence. However, there is also a tradition of meat and fish dishes. There are also numerous bihari chicken and mutton dishes common among masses.

Dairy products are consumed frequently throughout the year, with common foods including yoghurt, buttermilk matha, ghee, lassi and butter. The cuisine of Bihar is similar to a great extent to North Indian cuisine but it also has an influence from other East Indian cuisine.

Bihari cuisine has innumerable famous snacks and savories from vital parts of Bihar and they are:

PUA: Prepared from maida, milk, sugar, honey, dry fruits and ghee.

PEETHA: Prepared from rice flour and stuffed with grated coconut and jaggery.

LAI: Its is made from beaten rice and sugar.

LITTI CHOKHA: It is the speciality of Bihar, the litti is made of sattu, garlic, ginger, green chillies, lemon juice and the chokha is made of brinjal, tomato, salt, onion and mustard oil.

MAKER KA LABDOO: Made of besan, baking soda, sugar, cardamom, pista and ghee.

DAHI-CHURA AND SATTU: It is the traditional food of Bihar and is enjoyed during the festival of Makar Sankranti.

TAASH: It is a yummy grilled mutton dish originating from Champaran region of Bihar.

TIL KI BARFI

Ingredients:

Sesame seeds	3 cups
Sugar	2 1/2 cups
Groundnuts	1 cup
Dry coconut	1/2 cups (grated)
Ghee	2 tsp

Method:

- Roast sesame seeds until a good aroma comes from seeds. Keep aside.
- Roast the groundnuts. Grind the roasted sesame seeds coarsely. Grind roasted groundnuts finely and mix.
- Make a thick sugar syrup in a deep pan. Add the powdered sesame seeds, groundnuts in the syrup. Stir continuously until it no longer sticks to the edges.
- Spread the hot mixture on to a greased tray about a quarter inch thick. Sprinkle grated coconut on top. Cut into squares or diamond shapes.
- Let it cool. Til ki Barfi is ready to be served.



MITHA KHAJA

Ingredients:

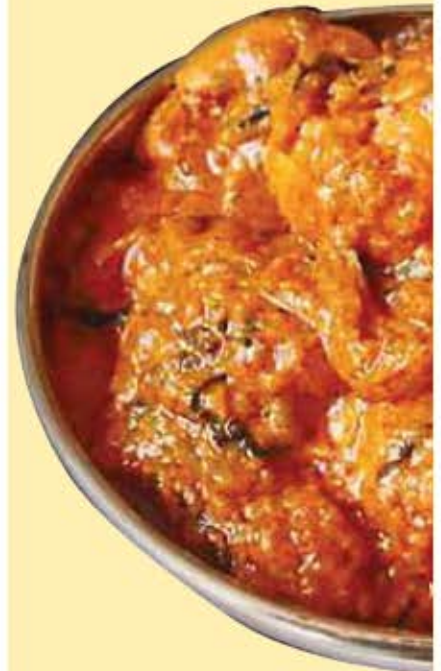
Maida	1 1/2 cups
Jaggery	1/2 cups
Water	1 cup
Cardamom powder	1/4 tsp
Ghee	1tbsp
Refined oil	to deep fry

Method:

- Heat the water and jaggery till it dissolves. Strain and cool a bit.
- Mix the cardamom powder and ghee in the flour. Knead the flour with the jaggery water till the dough becomes supple.
- Divide it into approx 20 pieces. Knead each with palm and fold it four times.
- Make tiny slits with knife or fork on both sides. Keep them aside on a clean cloth for an hour as to dry.
- Deep fry in hot oil on low flame till it gets light golden in colour and delicious Mitha Khajas are ready to be served.



DEHATI CHICKEN



Ingredients:

Chicken	1kg
Onion (chopped)	4 medium sized
Ginger (chopped)	3 inch pieces
Garlic	1 bulb (chopped)
Mustard oil	2tbsp
Turmeric powder	1tsp
Corriander powder	1/2 tsp
Tomato	1 (chopped)
Green chillies	6-8 (chopped)
Cumin powder	2 tsp
Black pepper	10 pods
Fresh cream	2tbsp
Corriander leaves	1 bunch (chopped)
Salt & Sugar	to taste

Method:

- Marinate the chicken pieces with salt, cumin, corriander, 1tbsp oil and keep aside.
- Heat mustard oil in a pan and put the pepper pods. Add the onion, ginger, garlic, chillies and fry properly.
- Add a teaspoon of the sugar. When the onion gets soft, add the chicken and chopped tomatoes and cook for 20mins. Add water, cover the pan while cooking, leave it for 15 mins and check from time to time.
- Garnish with fresh cream and corriander leaves,
- The delicious Dehati Chicken is ready to serve.

**Samridhi Dikshit, Sneha Rani,
Chandni Kumari**

A single bite swells up the area and it starts showing its after effects when we find ourselves itching and scratching foolishly. The hazard of mosquitoes is plaguing the state capital and driving us mad.

Mosquitoes are attracted to humans by perspiration, body warmth and body odour. So to keep them away from our body we should try for mosquito repellents, which acts as the spray that blocks the mosquito's sensors which also sense the human body. Only the female mosquito feeds on blood to get vital protein for developing eggs by using its needle-like proboscis. It lays 100 to 300 eggs at a time and one female may average 1,000 to 3,000 offspring during its lifetime.

According to statistics from Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH), 125 tests were done out of which 38 came to be positive for dengue between August to October. Maximum number of cases was recorded for Japanese encephalitis in the month of September and 13 out of 152 were detected to be positive. On asking about the number of patients diagnosed of malaria this year the data from Guru Govind

Singh City Hospital, Patna City, comes as being the highest in the month of September. Dengue patients are not just found in some districts but the tentacles of 'Female Anopheles mosquito' has been spread in the entire state. 63 were tested positive for 'break-bone' fever dengue in Bhagalpur.

Afzal Imam, Mayor of the state capital said, "to rescue the public from mosquito menace we have started pest control measures and DDT spray provided by Health Department and chemical spraying is being done every fortnight with fogging machines in all the wards of various municipal corporations and municipalities".

Suresh Narayan Sharma, a resident of Vivekanand Path, said despite repeated complaints, the PMC authorities did nothing to remove the garbage or reduce mosquito breeding in the area. Dr Lakhindra Singh, surgeon Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH), clued-up that mosquito borne diseases are mainly found at soiled places and at water logged areas. He also enlightened about the symptoms and prevention of mosquito borne diseases.

NET THE MOSQUITOES



DENGUE AND MALARIA

SYMPTOMS

- High fever (above 103 degree)
- Body ache
- Nausea & vomiting
- Headache

PREVENTION

- Wear mosquito repellent containing up to 30% DEET (10% for children) or 'picaridin' (always read the label and follow manufacturers' guidelines, particularly for infants)
- Wear long sleeve shirts and pants.
- Avoid outdoor activity at peak mosquito feeding times (dawn and dusk)



- Eliminate water-holding containers (buckets, tires, etc.) from your property
- This will reduce numbers of several mosquito species
- In general, mosquitoes are most active at sunrise and sunset. So that's the time of day you should take special care to avoid being bit
- Use personal 'tropical strength' insect repellents containing 'DEET' Choose screened or air-conditioned holiday accommodation.
- Wear long, loose clothes outdoors whenever mosquitoes are prevalent

'PRECAUTIONS CAN PREVENT CERVICAL CANCER'

What is cervical cancer? Is there any chance of me contracting the deadly disease? What are its symptoms? What are its types?

According to doctors, cervical cancer is a type of disease that affects the cervix of the female reproductive system. The cervix is the lower portion of the uterus that connects the upper vagina to the uterus. There can be various causes for cervical cancer, with the strongest related to sexual behaviour. Precaution is always better than cure. And the first step to fight any disease is getting informed about it.

Patients with a history of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), as well as those who started having sexual intercourse early in life and/or have had multiple sexual partners can contract the disease. Smoking, along with some cases of weak immune system (as in patients with AIDS) has also been linked to cervical cancer.

Most of the people consider it as an incurable disease and life taking, but is it really so? Chemotherapist Dr Manisha Singh of Mahavir Cancer Hospital, Patna says that on an average, she attends to 200 cervical cancer patients each day. "The number of patients can certainly be checked if the females go for a screening test, known as 'Pap test'. This test helps in diagnosing the disease at an early stage. Cancer treatment is individualised based on each person's characteristics and there are many factors that go into determining whether a patient can be cured," she adds. — **Kriti/Rupam/Ansu**

RISE IN ANOREXIA AND OBESITY CASES WORRY DOCTORS

**Trishita Das and
Firdaus Afreen**

'Anorexia nervosa' is a serious mental illness that has more mortality rate than any other psychiatric disorder. Those suffering from this disorder often view themselves as 'too fat' even if they are underweight and attempts to lose weight, sometimes to the point of starvation. Anorexia nervosa is just the flip side of a coin; the other side we know is obesity. The high rate of obesity is complimented by the increasing rate of anorexia, a disease that is rooted in a fear of getting obese.

According to Dr Arun Kumar Thakur, a pediatrician and elected president of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Bihar state branch, almost 90% of mothers complain that her child has anorexia, which can only be determined by testing and finding the consistent calorie gap or if the child is malnourished. "Patients need to fortify their diet with micro and macro nutrients, so they require adequate supplements of iron, calcium and vitamins



content," he added.

However, psychiatrist Dr Rakesh Kumar defers from Dr Thakur. According to him, the disease is on the rise, especially among girls. It usually develops during adolescence and early adulthood and can become a lifelong incurable illness that can only be managed over time. Though counselling is the main treatment, most anorexic patients avoid contacting psychiatrists. In early stages, some control it themselves and some go to physicians who give them supplements which subdue the disorder for a short term while in the long run most of them end up being hospitalised due to self-imposed starvation.

OBESITY

You get a moment to celebrate and you throw a party. Even

small occasions turn out to be a reason for treat. And what do you stick to? Your favourite eatables! But do you ever assess the repercussion it causes when you start consuming more calories than you burn?

Obesity till a few decades back was said to be an elitist phenomenon affecting only the upper sections of the society. However, the incidence can be observed in lower sections too.

Dr Shakuntala, a Patna-based general physician, said: "Apart from genetic and hormonal influences on body weight, there are some other contributing factors that play a role in obesity. With increasing age, the chances of being overweight increase."

According to National Family Health Survey, 12.1% male and 16% female are suffering from obesity in India. The country ranks 15 in the world with its 57.5 million obese people, putting them at much higher risk of diabetes, heart problems, high blood pressure, stroke and some form of cancer.

A TRIBUTE TO PANDIT RAVI SHANKAR

**Shivani Sinha and
Srishti Suman**

Pandit Ravi Shankar was one of the rarest embodiments who made the inner sanctum of humankind his 'gharana' making Indian classical music infinitely efflorescent.

Born on April 7, 1920 to Himangini and Shyam Shankar Choudhary in Varanasi, the sitar maestro breathed his last in California on December 11, 2012 after a week-long illness. He was 92. In the words of the Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, "People like him don't die. They just go back to heaven to take their rightful place amongst the Gods". This God

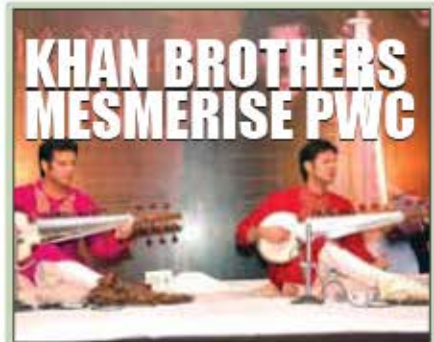


of sitar evolved amazing musical notes fostered on Indian classical music fused by western instruments. His boundless reinvention of ragas has surged across the boundaries of music. He held the post of music director at All India Radio till 1956. However, it did not satiate the musical thirst of Ravi Shankar and intrinsically he moved from national aura to become a global sensation.

The great maestro is survived by wife Sukanya Shankar and two daughters, Anoushka Shankar and Norah Jones Pandit. Ravi Shankar, a performer, a guru and an inspiration made the world alive with his music.

Pandit Ravi Shankar would always be remembered by all and would live in the form of his music forever. Whenever, 'sare jaha se acha' would be played Pandit Ravi Shankar would come alive.

Shankar has been considered one of the top sitar players of the second half of the 20th century. It's a great loss not only to India, but to the entire world at large. He made classical music eternal.



KHAN BROTHERS MESMERISE PWC

It was truly a magical moment, when the young and inspiring Khan brothers — Amaan Ali Khan and Ayaan Ali Khan — entered the campus of Patna Women's College (PWC) on September 2, 2012. The Sarod players mesmerised the crowd with their scintillating performances.

This Sunday was not a normal day, especially for the students of PWC and the Admerit College. Admerit had organised this musical function in the city under Spic Macay. Amaan Khan and Ayaan Khan lit the lamp in presence of Maya Shankar, co-ordinator of Spic Macay, Patna region and PWC Principal Dr Sister Marie Jessie A.C. It was a peaceful afternoon on Sunday to listen to the soulful ragas played by the Khan Brothers. The two sons of Sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan along with Mithilesh Jha on 'tabla' and Fateh Singh Gangani on 'pakhawaj', played the strings to render the ragas of classical music.

The duo chose the ragas to suit the mood of the audience. Beginning with a brief 'aalaap', they started their performance with 'bhimpalasi'. Later on they presented 'Rajeshwari', a brainchild of their father Amjad Ali Khan. The duo concluded their performance with a composition based on Rabindra Nath Tagore's song "Ekla Cholo Re". — **Shivani Sinha**

A FRESH LEASE OF LIFE TO CLASSICAL MUSIC

Alka Kumari

The blanket of westernisation has covered the thoughts of most of the Indians especially the youth, who are flowing along with this wave of western culture. The origin of Indian classical music goes back to the Vedic times, when the 'rishis' and the temple priests used to chant Vedic 'shlokas' to certain ragas in the temples. Indian classical music can be quite complicated with all the different ragas and complex rhythmic cycles called 'talas'. The interest to learn and opt classical music as a career option is disappearing somewhere. Only few people give value to classical music and carry them as their family tradition.

However, the advent of music reality shows

like 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa', 'Indian Idol' 'Amul Star Voice Of India and 'Sur Kshetra', has brought a revolution which bringing together people of all ages. The parents are also encouraging their children to learn classical music. These reality shows have renewed the urge of young generation to take a plunge in their glorious heritage.



"The Indian classical music is a very old tradition of our country. It is a basic and most important tool to learn music," said Preeti Sinha, a trained classical singer.

Hira Lal Mishra, a music teacher at Triveni Centre said, "Our institution is like a temple and learning classical music is like worshipping God". The music of India has its base in the classical music, which is one of the oldest unbroken musical traditions in the world.

**Firdaus Afreen and
Kumari Tejaswita**

A TEMPLE OF ART

The high trees on both sides stand here as an umbrella. The stroke of cool breeze invites the visitors to this world of art.

Welcome to College of Arts and Crafts. While entering into its premises, the first thing you get to see is a sculpted Nigerian couple standing in the front. There are numerous contemporary and Buddha sculptures dotted throughout the gardens. The front verandah is dedicated to

Madhubani Paintings. The entrance hall contains a lot of beautiful and interesting pieces of oil paintings, knife paintings and water colour paintings on the canvas. The perfect expressions on the faces of statues here are expressive enough to make conversation with you.

The college follows the traditional pattern of Patna Kalam, a

form of art inherited from the British. Through ages, the college stands as testimony to Patna's tryst with art.



Established on January 25, 1939 by Radha Mohanjee and Dr. Rajendra Prasad (the first President of India), this institution became a part of Patna University on April 12, 1977. Since then it has been serving as

the sole institution of Bihar, imparting education in arts and crafts and nurturing the vigour of wannabe artists.

Recently the college was selected to be developed as the 'Centre of Excellence' by the state government. Plans are underway to bring lots of changes and give it a new face. Apparently, it will inculcate the dying zeal for art among the new generation. However, problems like shortage of modern gadgets, computers and well equipped auditorium are still to be addressed.

AUDIENCE AWESTRUCK AT NINAD FUNCTION

Shivani Sinha and Srishti Suman

Once again, the capital witnessed a fresh and blissful event of Ninad. This was the eighth time that Ninad came up with the amazing cultural event in the city. The event began with the lighting of lamp by Vihar Lokayukta Mr Chandra Mohan Prasad.

Speaking on the occasion, he said music was solution to every depression and problems in life. It is that eternal soul that lies within us and makes us capable of getting rid of problems.

The Ninad artistes then performed 'Naman', praying lord Ganesha, Maa Saraswati and Guru



Stuti. This was followed by the amazing and breathtaking performance by Bharatanatyam per-

former Dr Ganna Smimov from Ukraine. In spite of belonging to the foreign land, her respect and attachment towards the Indian culture was very obvious from her performance. Throughout her performance, the audience was full of enthusiasm and excitement. The 'jugabandi' of tabla player Mr Yogesh Shamshi (Pune) and Sarangi player Mr Santosh Mishra (Varanasi) made the whole atmosphere musical and cheerful.

Later on, Ms Neelam Choudhari presented a 'ghazal' by Mirza Ghalib, 'Dil hi to hai', which made the environment jubilant. Last but not the least, the event ended with an amazing performance by famous sitar player Ustad Shahid Parwez, who left the audience spellbound.

STREET PLAY A FORGOTTEN ART!

Firdaus Afreen and Faryal Rumi

Gone are the days when people used to throng street corners enthralled by the drum beats. There is no one to say lights, camera and action now.

From time immemorial, street plays or 'Nukad Natak' have helped in creating awareness in the society. However, lifestyles have changed so rapidly that many of our customary arts and crafts have



been relegated to the archives.

Today's techno youth is so much influenced by the artificial world that they call street play a 'nautanki'. The word is rightly used by them but with smack in their tone. Street play is still breathing in the hearts of artists who knows the real meaning of art.

"In this era of meanness, egotism and greed where people are self-centered, there are still few people who care about the poverty stricken and uneducated section of the society. Street play neither depends on NGOs nor have any link with government," said Mr Sami Ahmad, a senior member of Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA), Bihar.



There was something special in the air at Shree Krishna Memorial Hall, Patna on December 15, 2012 when the singer and music composer Hariharan enthralled the audience with his amazing numbers like "kaash koi aisa manzar aata", "yeh aaina se akele me guftagu kya hai" and "Urdu Bluze". Bluze is a west-

ern style of singing in which different moods of a person is expressed. Then he continued with his all time evergreen numbers like "jhonka hawa ka", "tu hi re", "ranjish hi sahi" (ghazal) and "mohe apne hi rang me rang de". Hariharan mesmerised the audience with his "ragas and aalaps". — **Shivani/Srishti**

Rs 45 LAKH BIZ IN HANDLOOM EXPO

Bihar witnessed a special handloom expo fair, organised by Special State Hastkargha Bunkar Limited, on the premises of Sinha Library on November 26, 2012.

The expo began with a ribbon cutting ceremony by Dr Renu Kushwaha (industry minister) followed by a Lokgeet by Satyendra. The expo displayed various hand-made products by artists from different states.

The expo had 37 different stalls that contained various hand-made collec-

tions like saree, bed sheets, handbags, blankets, salwar suits, kurti and various other products.

Shopkeepers from Patna, Lucknow, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, West Bengal, Varanasi and Bhagalpur displayed their collections in the expo. These products ranged from Rs 100 to Rs 2,500.

The expo did a fair amount of business this year. Within a fortnight, sale of goods touched Rs 45 lakhs.

— **Shivani/Srishti**



BIHAR'S PRIDE: TIKULI & MITHILA PAINTING

Juhee Prasad and Lakshmi Kumari

The century-old dying Tikuli art exhibits the many faces of our rich Indian culture, including the famous Madhubani Paintings of Bihar. The motif of the Madhubani art and other mythological characters have been widely used in the Tikuli Paintings. The Tikuli art owes some of its allegiance to the famous painter



Shree Upendra Maharathi too as it was during his tour of Japan that



Shree Maharathi came across colorful hardboard paintings

depicting the Nipponese motif being sold commercially to both foreigners and locals. Impressed and inspired by such paintings, Maharathi adopted the Japanese method to portray the dying Tikuli art on glazed hardboard. But all his efforts came to a standstill as after his death neither the local artists, nor did the Bihar government show any interest or inclination in promoting this legendary art form.

The art form, however, did not reach its annihilation as it found its salvation in painter Ashok K Biswas whose single-handed crusade has brought Tikuli art to our homes today.

LORD of the rings

Tanya Singh

204 nations, 200 events, 26 sports, 10,500 athletes, 960 medals and one game — Olympics. For 17 consecutive days, people around the globe were enthralled. India secured silver and bronze in the big game of 2012. The six incredible jewels- Sushil Kumar (Silver), Vijay Kumar (Silver), Yogeshwar Dutt (Bronze), Saina Nehwal (Bronze), Mary Kom (Bronze) and Gagan Narang (Bronze) made India proud.

Sushil Kumar, the 29-year-old wrestler became the first Indian to win back-to-back Olympic medals. With the addition of Sushil's silver medal, India bagged six medals for the first time, in the 30th edition of Olympics.

The worth of the flag bearer of the Indian contingent, Sushil Kumar's weight was lost due to dehydration. Therefore he bagged the Silver after losing to Japanese wrestler Tatsuhiro Yonemitsu. In Sushil's words: "It was bronze in Beijing, and now it's silver. So, we are gradually going up and may be in the next Olympics, I will be able to win gold medal".

Armyman Vijay Kumar shot a nerve free 30 in the final rounds to clinch silver by sidelining the Chinese champion Ding Feng. On the arrival of the ace shooter to his country, the IGI airport resembled an army parade to welcome him.

Yogeshwar Dutt, after losing the pre-quarter final bout to Besik Kudukhov (Russia) got a chance to play in the repechage round against



North Korea's Ri Jong Myong for bronze.

Saina Nehwal became first Indian women shuttler to rank World No. 2. She took home Bronze following her victory over China's Wang Xin. An elated Saina said: "When I stood on the podium I was thinking about all the hard work I had put in. It is just a beginning and I hope I get many more medals for the country." Saina's coach Gopichand said: "I am really fortunate that though I didn't win a medal in my playing time, I won a medal in my lifetime. Saina has done better than all of us. She is phenomenal. The greatest thing is that she is young. There are still many years to go."

The London Olympics for the first time witnessed Women's Boxing. The Indian lady boxer, Mary Kom bowed out of the Olympics going down valiantly to Great Britain's Nicola Adams in the semi-finals to finish with a Bronze medal.

Gagan Narang shot 10.7 to get the Bronze medal in 10m air rifle. Narang made sure to trip over 60 shots for qualifying and 10 shots in the final, making a total of 70 shots. The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) presented him with Rs 15 lakhs.

After clinching six medals in London Olympics, our athletes are all set for the 2016 Rio challenge.



Mary Kom



Gagan Narang



Sushil Kumar



Vijay Kumar



Yogeshwar Dutt

Flying fish off the pool



Kripa Kasyap Singh

The butterfly man, Michael Phelps, 27, is a world record holder in 100 & 200 metres butterfly plus 400 metres individual medley. He has a total of 71 medals in major international competitions — 57 gold, 11 silver and three bronze.

In 2008 games, he went for a perfect eight for eight, breaking Mark Spitz's singles games record for gold medals (Spitz won seven in 1972). In 2009, his photo with a marijuana pipe got him suspended for three months. The incident made him think about quitting the sport.

Apart from immense talent, Phelps has got some naturally gifted physical characteristics that enables him to ride on water like nobody else.

Phelps left the pool after becoming the greatest Olympic athlete of all time. "I told to myself I never want to swim when I am 30", he told reporters after his final race.

Lightening Bolt



Kripa Kasyap Singh

"You are all in presence of a living legend, you can bask in my glory. Now, go back to your countries and tell your people that I am a legend," that's how Usain Bolt finished after addressing the world media.

He was the first man ever to win six Olympic Gold Medals in sprinting and a five-time world champion. Till date he is the only Olympian to achieve a 'double-double' by winning 100 metres or 200 metres titles at consecutive Olympics (2008 & 2012) and topped this through the first double-triple (including 4x100m) relays.

Carl Lewis had said: "Countries like Jamaica do not have a random drug testing programme, so they can go months without being tested." Usain Bolt has dismissed these allegations.

The designation of fastest man on earth speaks about great physical and mental calibre with unequalled endowment.

THE RECORD MAKER

Tanya Singh

God of cricket will not be seen any more in the One Day Internationals (ODIs). Master blaster Sachin Tendulkar, 39, made a fruitful full stop to his glorious career of 23 years in December 2012.

Little Master debuted in ODIs at the young age of 16. In his debut match, Sachin failed to score even a single run. But his senior players and the selectors showed faith in him. Tendulkar reciprocated by hitting 49 centuries and 96 half centuries in his over two decades ODI stint. His success mantra, "It's not about me, it's always about cricket." After completing his every century and half century, he used to look at the sky with his bat and helmet raised to thank God and then towards his fans in the stadium. Although his announcement of retirement was surprising to some, the others welcomed it as it was his own decision to retire from ODIs.

He stated in his own words: "I have decided to retire from the one-day format of the game. I feel blessed to have fulfilled the dream of being part of a World Cup winning Indian team. The preparatory process to defend the World Cup in 2015 should begin early and in right earnest."

The finest moment of his career was the day India won the World Cup in 2011.

The record book of cricket has got most of the records in his name, including the first double hundred in the history of ODIs. He has bagged most number of 'Man of the Match' and 'Man of the Series' awards. The master has played on 96 different grounds

across the world, the most by any player. He ended his ODI career with a stunning record of 18,426 runs. Sachin has left behind a lesson of sheer determination for the upcoming young Indian cricketers.

His practice of making record has not ended as he will continue to play Test matches and domestic cricket.



MAN OF THE MATCH: 62 / MAN OF THE SERIES: 15

ODI RECORD

	Matches	Runs	Highest score	Average	100	50
Overall	463	18,426	200*	44.83	49	96
In the subcontinent	288	12,067	200*	47.32	38	59
Home	164	6,976	200*	48.11	20	38
Winning cause	234	11,157	200*	56.63	33	59
Losing cause	200	6,585	175	33.25	14	35
No result	24	518	105*	47.09	01	02
Tied games	05	166	120	33.20	01	00

VOID IN THE TEAM



	Matches	Runs	Highest	Average	100/50
Tests	134	8,781	281	45.97	17/56
ODIs	86	2,338	131	30.76	6/10

Performance against Australia (in Tests):

	Matches	Runs	Highest	Average	100/50
	29	2434	281	49.67	6/12

Neha Kumari and Faryal Rumi

Endings are hard but then nothing really ends, does it? An era of Indian cricket drew stumps as VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid announced their retirement this year laying the responsibilities to uphold the dignity of Indian cricket on the shoulders of youth.

Their retirement has created a void in the middle order which may barely be satiated. No cricket enthusiast can forget the dual combo of VVS Laxman, 37 and Rahul Dravid, 39, who had piled 376 runs for the fifth wicket in the second innings of Eden Test against arch rivals Australia in 2001.

VVS Laxman

Vangipurapu Venkata Sai Laxman was the other name of pride and joy for the cricket lovers. This Hyderabad player had a glorious career. Debuting in 1996, he scored 8,781 runs in 134 matches with a striking average of 45.97 runs which included marvelous 17 centuries and 56 fifties in Test cricket. He was the champion and ruled the ODI cricket for an era and scored 2,338 runs in 86 matches with an average of 30.76 runs.

Laxman has asserted that he will continue to play domestic cricket

and Indian Premier League. Famously nicknamed Very Very Special Laxman, the dexterous player was noted for the skilful use of his flexible wrists. This right-handed batsman had a superb timing to flick the ball outside the boundary line.

He has been awarded with the Padma Sri in 2011 and Arjuna Award by the Government of India in the year 2001.

Rahul Dravid

Rahul Sharad Dravid, popularly known as 'The Wall' always succeeded in safeguarding and upholding the national flag high of the Indian cricket team for 16 years. He is the second highest run scorer in Test match and made the world record for the most number of catches taken by a player in Test cricket.

Dravid is the third Indian to cross the 10,000 run mark in both Tests and ODIs. In 2000, Wisden, the official site of the cricketers' almanac ranked him the third greatest Test batsman of all time, next to Bradman and Tendulkar.

"My approach to cricket has been reasonably simple: it was about giving everything to the team, playing with dignity and upholding the spirit of the game," pronounced Dravid in his retirement speech.



Overall Performance:

Competition	Test	ODI	FC	LA
Matches	344	298	499	-
Runs scored	13,288	10,889	23,794	15,271
Batting Average	52.31	39.16	55.33	42.30
100s/50s	36/63	12/83	69/117	21/112
Top score	270	153	270	153
Catches/Stumping	210/0	196/14	353/1	233/17

T20: Caribbeans win the world

Neha Kumari

Cricket has got evolved in a new kind of pursuit 'fatafat entertainment'. And its trendier when it is the T20 World Cup- the tournament that brought together 16 countries for 17 days, arresting the attention of millions.

Crossing all hurdles and overcoming all difficulties, the Caribbeans grabbed the prestigious trophy after a gap of 33 years. It was in the year 1975, when this country astonished the world by winning the first World Cup in the history of cricket. West Indies continued their successful march as they earned the name 'World Champions' for the second consecutive time in the year 1979. This period is marked as the golden era in the history of West Indies cricket. But, the then captors could not maintain their winning streak after they were defeated by India in the World Cup final in 1983. This led to abrupt downfall, after which the name of West Indies got almost diminished from the cricket book.

Now the spring has returned and the Gangnam dance is all around. Let us welcome the new T20 World Champions- West Indies.

The semifinals, Australia Vs West Indies and Pakistan Vs Sri Lanka gave us the ultimate contenders-Indies and Lankans. The World Twenty20 final match was supposed between Chris Gayle and Sri Lanka who scored just three of 16 balls on the final day. This early breakthrough put Lankans and its fans on cloud nine but the



Winners (West Indies): Rs. 5,18,00,000

Runners-up (Sri Lanka):Rs. 2,59,00,000

Semifinalists (Australia vs Pakistan): Rs. 1,29,00,000 each

Man of the match: Marlon Samuels

Man of the tournament: Shane Watson

Jamaican- Marlon Samuels, roared back eventually breaking the Lankan heart to claim the World T20 title by 36 runs over the hosts at the Premadasa stadium.

Under 19 India shines Down Under



Malahat Jahan

Time stood still. A breath of relief. What Mohammad Kaif did in 2000, Virat Kohli in 2008, Unmukt Chand repeated the same in 2012. The 'teenagers' brought home the Under

19 World Cup by winning against Australia with 14 balls and 6 wickets to spare.

Despite a poor start, the winning trophy in India's basket at the end proved that all's well that ends well. India beat Pakistan by one wicket in a tense quarter-final match to reach the semi-finals. The last wicket pair of Harmeet Singh and Sandeep Sharma clinched the match in their favour chasing 137 to win. In the Semi final against New Zealand India turned up with much improved batting unit and the bowlers maintained their impressive form. Thus, making it to the big final to lock horns with Australia.

The way every opponent was defeated showed the fighting spirit and madness in our boys to get the tag back to India.

The Indian skipper Unmukt Chand played beautiful innings of 111 not out in 130 balls with 6 sixes and 7 fours kissing the pitch from his bat. Sandeep Sharma also excelled with four wickets under his belt. Australia, the defending champions, performed quite well to recover from 38 for four. But Unmukt stopped that effort by combining with Baba Aparajith and stitching a 73 run stand for second wicket. Smith Patel also chipped in with 62 runs to help India win the trophy.

ECLIPSED

Sabeela Rasheed and Daisy

Sports has been an indispensable part of India's culture. India has pioneered a number of games and plays 37 games in the international arena.

Cricket, a grandeur game is one big major sport in India. It has gained tremendous popularity in the recent years and has been successful in invoking the interest of millions of Indians. A gentleman's game, it has captivated a large amount of money, sponsors and a lot of attention of course!

The other side of the gala presents an

altogether different picture. Cricket in India has actually overshadowed all other sports.

Archery, shooting, weightlifting are games which have bagged India many medals on different occasions. All these sports in India do have their own associations and federations but they all seem to be helpless. Sponsorship is a problem with these games, The Indian sports ministry's apathy towards these sports is another big reason.

Football at club level is popular but it's restricted to states like Bengal and Goa only.

Hockey has constantly deteriorated and has seen a lot of controversies in the past. No smooth functioning is seen by IHF. Regular frictions between players and federation has hampered the game a lot.



ILLUSTRATION: SWATI SINHA

As the 2010-13 batch of Patna Women's College cabinet passes on the baton to juniors, Headway reporters cover their year-long journey when they oversaw numerous programmes on the college campus with sincere dedication



Shivani Sinha

It was a proud moment for Patna Women's College (PWC) as it celebrated its foundation day on the completion of 72 years of prosperity and glory on August 23, 2012. Students presented a beautiful mélange of cultural events to mark the occasion. The programme started with the lighting of lamp by guest, Rev. Archbishop William D' Souza S.J., followed by garlanding of the portrait of the founder, Bishop B.J. Sullivan S.J.

A prayer dance on *tu yaha bhi tu wahan bhi* mesmerised the audience. It was followed by a welcome address by the Acting Principal, Dr Sister Marie Jessie A.C. In her welcome speech, she remembered Mother M. Josephine, A.C. who played a vital role in establishing the college in 1940. She said, "Nothing is impossible with a seeking, determined and intellectual mind."

PWC

**73 YEARS
OF GLORY**



The show moved forward with a group song *naino se swagat* followed by an amaz-

ing performance on the Shrivani song "aa re badra". The performance caught the maximum attention and applause from the audience.

Patriotic fervour rolled down when another group came up with the song *hey jannabhoomi bharat* and the soul touching dance on *yeh mati sabhi ki kahani kahe gi*. The performance gave jitters to the audience ending with 'awaaz do hum ek hai jago'. The stage hall echoed with the sounds of claps coming from all the corners. The last performance was a soothing yet intriguing and inspiring song with a message 'heal the world'.

The show ended with an address by the ArchBishop. "We should give up greed and selfishness to bring change in our society," he said, adding that the performances of the students were wonderful and a strong feeling for our Motherland was evoked.

A GIANT LEAP FOR HEADWAY



The happiness of students knew no bounds when the third edition of Headway, the annual journal of Department of Mass Communication, PWC, was released on July 20, 2012

Zeal, enthusiasm and zest seemed to be the suitable words to describe the mood of the students present at the release of Headway Volume III.

A poster exhibition was also held to mark the function. "We are jubilant as our effort has yielded fruits," said an enthusiastic student of 2009-12 batch. For the juniors, the function was an opportunity to set target for themselves.

The Principal, Dr Sister Doris D'souza A.C., praised the students for their hard work and determination that resulted in publication of a new look journal.

Mr Pushpavant, Assistant Director (News), Doordarshan was the chief guest.

The programme began with the

lighting of lamp by the Principal, the Chief Guest, HoD Ms Shampa Sharma and Chief Student Editor, Headway, Sheezan Nezami. The welcome song 'Naino Se Swagat' added a spark to the event.

"Headway has transformed us from students of journalism to budding journalists," said members of the journal's editorial team.

Mr Pushpavant was very impressed with the students' effort. He said there should be a balance in theory and practical knowledge, which is well seen in the students of PWC. He also appreciated the students for preparing innovative posters on some of the burning issues plaguing the society.

— Shubhra Ghosh

A FIELD DAY FOR SPORTSWOMEN

Patna Women's College organised its Annual Sports Meet on December 8, 2012 on the college premises with much gusto. DGP, Bihar, Mr Abhayanand inaugurated the programme by hoisting the college flag.



The sports day event began with march past, with college cabinets Priyanka, Apama, Sneha Kumar and Divya Ekka holding the Olympic ring, while Premiere Sayyoni held the college flag. The five linked Olympic ring spread the motto of unity and harmony.

Students of all departments participated in various athletic events with lots of enthusiasm. Dr Sister Marie Jessie A.C., Acting Principal, Patna Women's College, encouraged the participants and spurred them to display their talent in Yogasana, Aerobics, Cycle Race and Dandiya.

The individual championship trophy went to Varsha Rani of BA IIIrd Year. The indoor championship prize went to Annu Kumari of BA. IIIrd Year. "It is a matter of

great honour for me to talk in front of you all. You are the future of country. You charged up the atmosphere. For armymen, there is no runners-up in war. All the good wishes for you. Show your spirit in every field," said guest of honour, Major General Pankaj Sachdeva. The first prize for March Past went to B.Com IIIrd Year, while the second prize was bagged by BA IIIrd Year. The third prize went to the department of B.Sc.

Shweta Suman of BBA IIIrd Year won the first prize in 100 metre hurdles race. The first prize for sack race went to Smriti Priyadarshini of B.A. Ist year. Cycle Race and Bottle Balance Race was won by Priti Kumari of B.A. IIIrd Year.

— Nidhi & Sneha Verma

AND THE CROWN GOES TO...



Miss Patna Women's College (2010-13) Shweta Suman (centre), Department of BCA, is flanked on her left and right by first runner up Pankhuri Sharan (Department of CEMS) and second runner up Sneha Kumar (Department of BBA), respectively.

PWC A LIGHTHOUSE IN DARK CONTINENT: KONWAR

Firdaus Afreen

True applause is spontaneous. It shows how much one has enjoyed something. Be it any celebration programme, the campus of Patna Women's College is reverberated with loud applause. But this time when the college marked its Annual Day on February 5, 2013, the loud claps heard after each performance was thunderous.

The Governor of Bihar, Mr Devanand Konwar, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The Vice Chancellor of Patna University (PU), Professor Shambhu Nath Singh, Vice Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University (CNLU), Patna Prof. A. Laxminath, the IAS and Chairman of Bihar Public Service Commission Mr K. C. Saha, Provincial Superior of Northern Province, Sister Lily D'Souza A.C., Superior Avila Convent, Patna Dr. Sister M. Reema A.C., were the Guests of Honour. The parents of the final year students of all departments were also especially invited.

The programme began in the evening with a welcome song, 'Aho bhagya hai aaj hamare...', signifying happiness and devotion of students who were dressed in blue. The theme of this year's celebration was followed by Prize Distribution for Research Projects under CPE Scheme by the Special Guest, Prof. A. Laxminath, Vice Chancellor of CNLU, Patna.

Addressing the audience, he said the research findings of the students of the CPE Projects should be published so that it may be available to as many people as possible. He also said: "This century is rampant with cultural terrorism and freedom of speech should be maintained." He also urged the students to develop good leadership qualities.

Then the arrival of Chief Guest was welcomed with a prayer dance, 'Mann ka Deepak...' signifying self-enlightenment, performed in semi-classical style by the students. Later on, the College Acting Principal Dr. Sister Marie Jessie A.C. extended a warm welcome to the chief guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Konwar said: "Institutes like Patna Women's College are a lighthouse in the dark continent. I had heard of PWC much before I had come to Bihar. The college has immensely contributed to the socio-political life of the state over the years. The creative impulse of students is more important than academic excellence."

Vice Chancellor of PU Prof Shambhu Nath Singh congratulated the students for putting up the wonderful show and said, "What distinguishes PWC from other colleges of Bihar is that most of the colleges of the State are jealous of this college. And if someone is jealous of you, they surely aspire to become like you. There lies the strength of PWC."



PWC heads for sustainable development

The objective of sustainability lies at the heart of organic farming, said Dr KM Singh, Principal Scientist, Division of Socio-Economic and Extension (DSEE), at a seminar on organic farming and an exhibition on 'Reduce, reuse, recycle paper', organised by Eco Task Force (ETF) of Patna Women's College (PWC) on August 2, 2012.

Dr Singh said organic farming was an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity. It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony.

"Most of the fertilisers, pesticides and other chemicals used in conventional farming are carcinogens. They cause damage to liver, nerves, brain and sterility. The chemicals are also toxic to wildlife and fishes. Organic farming reduces greenhouse gases and there has to be a balance between organic and conventional farming," he added.

Mr Santosh Mathew, IAS, who was the chief guest on the occasion, suggested the students to use the resources effectively and efficiently. He exhorted the students to come forward to fight the menace of global warming. The programme was supervised by Dr Shahla Yasmin, Head of the Department, Zoology and Vice President, ETF. Other teachers of the department were also present. PWC principal Dr Sister Doris D'Souza A.C. and president of Eco Task Force welcomed the guests. — Megha Mathur

A day dedicated to teachers

A giggling, creeping, chuckling baby (toddler) unaware of his own things crawls down the floor, and then his mother comes, holds his hand and lifts him up helping him to stand on his feet and move his steps. After this, a more responsible and diligent job of teaching the moralities and truth of life to the child is given to the teachers. Hence, the credit to impart the knowledge of leading a loyal, peaceful, successful and happy life goes to none but the teachers. A good teacher is like a candle. It consumes itself to light the way for others. With this thought, the celebrations of Teachers' Day at PWC proceeded. The Acting Principal, Dr. Sister Marie Jessie AC, inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp. She said, "Dear teacher you are everything in educational institutions, you are guide, mentor, inspiration and pillar for the students." She described various categories of a teacher, like being strict, ideal, funny, lenient, perfectionist, rude and friendly. The chief guests were Sister Carol, Prof. Sarita Barsi and Prof. T.P. Michael. The programme began with a prayer dance by Nancy (Industrial Microbiology Department), Swati (English honours) and Divya (Physics honours) anchored the programme.

— Firdaus Afreen

MOTHERS... TIME TO OPEN YOUR EYES

Child health and significance of breastfeeding was the topic for the students during 'World Breastfeeding Promotion Week', organised by the Home Science Department of Patna Women's College, from August 1, 2012. **Samridhi Dikshit** covers the essence of the programme

Students of Patna Women's College campaigned hard to promote breastfeeding as part of its annual breastfeeding week. The target was mothers, who are believed to be 'the saviours of child'.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Poonam, Gynaecologist, Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Science (IGIMS), who was the chief guest, said: "It is a myth that breastfeeding destroys the figure of women. It is not true. There is a need to end this thinking."

"Breast feeding is like liquid gold for child. It is compulsory for the newborn to cure them from different types of diseases such as diabetes, weight loss etc.," said Arya Singh, MA second year student, Department of Home Science. "Physical and mental development of the child can be enhanced by breastfeeding," she added.



A large number of women participated in PWC drive to promote breastfeeding

Vibha Wari, MA second year student, Department of Home Science laid emphasis on importance of awareness of this programme in every college.

Dr Sujata Jha, Head of Department,

Home Science also invited the students of other departments to join hands in this awareness programme. "We want to give a message to mothers and teach them the importance and benefits of breastfeeding for a child," she said.

Students of Department of Home Science, Psychology, Economics and Communicative English with Media Studies (CEMS) participated in the essay competition.

Sufra, a student of Economics Honours got the first position, while the second prize was given to Shalini of Psychology Honours. The third place was bagged by Nutan Kumari, Home Science. The Acting Principal, Dr Sister Marie Jessie AC and chief guest Dr Poonam distributed certificates to the winners of the essay competition.

IRIS COMES INTO BEING A DREAM COME TRUE FOR BUDDING SCIENTISTS

Shrishty Ganguly

It was a great moment and matter of pride for Patna Women's College (PWC) when 'IRIS', a journal for young scientists was launched in August. The volume 1 of the journal contains 12 research papers of undergraduate science students, prepared under the supervision of respective faculty members.

The guests were welcomed by Dr Sister Doris D' Souza A.C., Principal, PWC. She congratulated the research committee and the students for their hard work and relentless efforts. She said the Greek term 'IRIS' means

'rainbow' which has a number of colours and wavelength.

The chief guest, Mr Vijoy Prakash, Principal Secretary, Department of Planning and Development, Govt of Bihar launched the first edition of the journal. He appreciated the research committee and the students of undergraduate level for carrying out basic scientific research initiatives. He congratulated the management, staff and students of the college for the release of the journal. Mr Prakash advised the students to take up research in daily life. "Curiosity develops creativity and creativity results in development," he said.



TRICOLOUR FIESTA

Patriotic fervour was the buzzword of the day as Patna Women's College (PWC) students joined the nation to celebrate the country's freedom on their college campus.

The sky-scraping 'national flag' was at the backdrop with 'Shanknaad' written on its sides grabbing the attention of the gathering. Students portrayed their feelings for the country through mesmerising performances. The skit 'ye diwar gira do', performed by a group of girls, was the most influencing one. The audiences' involvement was reflected through their reverberation of claps.

The Acting Principal of the College, Sister Marie Jessie A.C, congratulated the teachers and the participants as they incited a feeling of nationality among the audience. She said, "True freedom is what we ought to do and not what we like to do. Let all countrymen get true freedom, the gift of god".

Head of Department, Political Science, Dr Nidhi Sinha said, "We should avoid hatred and maintain unity."

— **Sudipta R Choudhary**

SHRAVANI MAHOTSAV PWC GIRLS GREET THE GREEN TO USHER IN SAWAN

Shruti Shiksha

Students welcomed the monsoon with great zeal and enthusiasm at a function organised by Patna Women's College to mark Shravani Mahotsav on the 28th of July, 2012.

Attired in green, the colour of sawan, the participants mesmerised the crowd with their skillful display of dance and songs. A total of eight groups comprising over 80 students participated in the competition. All the performances had the glimpses of Bihar's culture and tradition. The decoration of the hall, especially the backdrop, was amazing and the

'peacock', made the audience spellbound.

The principal, Dr. Sister Doris D Souza A.C, appreciated the performance of the participants and the spirit of the students in making the programme a successful one.

Ejya Yadav, Head of the Department of Communicative English with Media Studies, Shobha Srivastava, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology and Sahar Rahman, Assistant Professor, Deptt. of English judged the competition. The first prize went to code 3 who danced on the song 'Aa re badraa', the second prize was bagged by code 6 who danced on 'Ab ghar aaja re'...



VIRASAT 2012: SONG, DANCE, DRAMA AND FUN GALORE FOR STUDENTS



Firdaus Afreen and Nancy Priya

The music on DJ, favourite remix songs, dancing under the open sky and fun is nothing new. But the idea of having all these within the college campus with all the friends and classmates is really thrilling.

Patna Women's College organised its annual youth day programme 'Virasat 2012' on November 27, 2012. The programme began with flag hoisting by the Acting Principal, Sister Marie Jessie A.C., followed by the College Anthem. Conventionally, the celebrations began with a song,

dance and drama competition on the theme 'Feel Royal'. "We have a father in heaven who is the king of kings and we are his children, hence the royal blood flows in us," the cabinet announced. With this thought, the students participated in the programme with full enthusiasm and energy.

A team of three judges comprising Dr Shobha Srivastava (Dept of Zoology), Sister Celine Crasta AC (Dept of History) and Ms Imbesat Imam (Dept of Mass Communication) evaluated the performances. Department of Hindi fetched the first prize by performing a play, 'Ramleela', based

on return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after 14 years in exile. The second prize was grabbed by Communicative English with Media Studies (CEMS) department who performed a drama showing life of Queen Jodha and Mughal emperor Akbar followed by a warrior dance. The department of Economics won the third prize, performing a play portraying the love life of Mughal emperor Shah Jehan and his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal.

Later on, the DJ players took over and had the students dance to the tune of all the latest hit songs like *tumhi ho bandhu, challa* etc.

PARENT-TEACHER MEETING AT BMC

Nancy Priya/Firdaus Afreen

It was a day when teachers didn't teach students. They just exchanged pleasantries with the parents.

The parent-teacher meeting of Department of Mass Communication, Patna Women's College (PWC), was a huge success on August 11, 2012, with parents of enthusiastic first year students discussing relevant details with the teachers.

Children represent the moral values, discipline, patience, punctuality, culture and sense of responsibility that they inherit from their parents. Therefore, parents were keen to know about the performance of their wards.

Parents took time out of their busy schedule to know about the course. The number of students has jumped this year, with 67 girls enrolling for the course. The Head of Department, Ms Shampa Sharma, welcomed all and briefed them about the course syllabus. She laid emphasis on mandatory 75% attendance, punctuality, the dress code and the other decorum of the college.



FRESHERS' DAY



The campus of Patna Women's College (PWC) was filled with enthusiasm as two separate Freshers' Day functions were organised on July 26, 2012 and August 25, 2012 to welcome the newcomers. The functions began with the prayer song which took the audience to the divine kingdom of god, followed by the vibrant performances by the first year students.



PHOTOS: SRISHTI SUMAN

PATRIOTIC SONG COMPETITION

Juhee Prasad

The claps, the taps, the breath of everyone present at the patriotic song competition 2012 organised by Patna Women's college (PWC), on August 9, 2012, were in sync with the tunes of patriotism.

Seven performances by different departments of the college created an aura of patriotism and nationalism. All were exceptionally good but the performance on 'Hum Archana kareng...' by code 5 took away the 1st prize by sweeping the floor with their performance. Code 2 and 3 with their performance created a different environment by singing on 'jai jai bharat ki jai...' and 'aye mere watan ke logo...' respectively and shared the position for the 2nd best performances of the day. Dr Madhu Rani Sinha, Head of Department (HoD) of Chemistry, Ms. Amrita Choudhary, lecturer, Department of Geography, and Ms. Shampa Sharma, HoD, Mass Communication graced the programme with their presence as the jury members.



ALUMNI MEET

A JOURNEY DOWN MEMORY LANE

Ansu Kumari & Srishty Suman

Patna Women's College organised an alumni meet for those who passed out from the college till 2008. The event, held on October 6, 2012, began with the lighting of lamp and an opening dance on "Sujalam Sujalam Malayaja Shitlam" by Shweta and Rohini, followed by a melodious song presented by the college students, "Aap Aaye Humare Dwaar".

The Acting Principal of the college, Dr Sr. Marie Jessie A.C. presented a welcome address and thanked all the alumni and the invitees for sparing



their precious time from their busy schedule to attend the programme. She said such programmes refreshes all the old memories and binds the alumni with the institute where they have spent three or five years of their youth. She termed the former students of the college as the measures of success and service and the foundation of future. She further appreciated the ex-students by saying that they are the valuable part of Patna Women's College extended family.

She urged the alumni to help in organising programmes for the development of various aspects of life. A power-point presentation on "Down the Memory Lane" was presented before the alumni as "Yaadein..." There was a group discussion and sharing of experiences among the alumni. Lucky Star and Elimination Game were also organised for them.

Ankita Priya and Surobhi Lahiri

The Society for Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth (SPICMACAY) organised three functions within a gap of two months on the premises of Patna Women's College.

Twin Classical performers, Vidushi Nancy Kulkarni and Tapish Das, mesmerised the students by playing 'Chillaw' and 'Pakhawaj' respectively, in an event organised by SPICMACAY. The mellifluous music of 'Morning Alap' in 'Raga Tori' followed by 'Jor' section and then 'Jhala' coordinated with the strings of 'Chakari' kept the students spellbound. Asked what inspired her to adopt Indian Music, Kulkarni firmly replied,



"the very first thing that inspired me was the spirituality in the 'Dhrupad Alap'."

Under its annual 'Virasat 2012' series, 'Purulia Chhau' dance cap-

tivated moods of students. The dance, epic in content, was based on various episodes of the Ramayana, Mahabharata and the Puranas. Chhau dancer Tarapad

Rajak along with his 16 member troupe, performed a dance on 'Mahisasura-Mardini'.

The series continued with the performance of Padamshree Smt. Bharti Shivaji, the Doyen of Mohiniattam (a rare dance form of Kerala). Bharti performed 'Ganesha Vandana', 'Saraswati Vandana' and a 'Lullaby, in which the mother compares the beauty of her child's face, voice and other traits with the beauty of moon, the sweetness of honey and other beautiful things in the world. Later, her music troupe comprising vocalist Rajgopal, Mridangam player Jayant Das, Idakka (small drum) player Sreekumar and Veena player Shyamala Bhaskar played a 'Jugalbandi' on their instruments. Each student clapped in tune and was left awestruck.

CHRISTMAS

WHEN SANTA BROUGHT JOY TO COLLEGE



Firdaus Afreen and Vishakha Priya

Christmas is a story of God's love for humanity when jingle bell tune floats in the air, reducing the crudeness of chilling winter. Santa Claus, cakes, chocolates, gifts and a holy fervour make this day special. Bringing joy to the lives of people, it carries the message of sharing, celebrating and forgiving.

On December 21, Patna Women's College celebrated Christmas and the whole campus was filled with the aroma of bliss.

The programme started with a classical prayer dance performed by nine students

following a carol, Holy Night, by 11 students of different departments.

After carol, the students narrated stories related to the birth of Jesus Christ. The skit kicked off with a pregnant Mary coming to the stable, signifying the birth of Jesus. The focus was on the features and importance of Christmas tree, Jingle Bell, Santa Claus, its history, and Christmas cards.

In her message, Acting Principal Dr Sister Marie Jessie A.C. said: "We are precious in the eyes of God and our heart is the temple of the God." She thanked the participants for presenting a spectacular show. Arundhati Sharma proposed vote of thanks.

CAROL SINGING

PWCians USHER IN NEW YEAR



Shubhra Ghosh and Firdaus Afreen

The month of December comes with all the sweet and sour memories of the year and the excitement to celebrate the New Year.

The enthusiasm and excitement of students of different departments of Patna Women's College knew no bounds when they participated in the carol singing competition on December 13, 2012. There were two competitions, one Hindi carol singing competition with 10 competitors and the other English carol singing competition with seven competitors. All the Hindi song

participants were in colourful saris of white, red and green representing Christmas colour. The English song participants were in skirts.

The judges, Father Raymon, Kuldeep and Sister Zilla were there to judge the performance of the students. At last, the acting principal, Dr Sister Marie Jessie A.C. addressed the gathering. She later declared the results of both the competitions. She also thanked the three jury members. In Hindi contest, the first prize went to the kitty of code number 6. In English competition, code number 3 bagged the first prize.

DEV AND DIVA: MODELS ROCK



Siddhartha

Richa, Megha Mathur, Kritika Agarwal

Entertainment was the only word that echoed in the S K Memorial Hall on October 4, 2012 during the Dev and Diva contest Grand Finale.

Dev and Diva is a stepping stone in the lives of aspiring models of Bihar and Jharkhand as it provides them a platform to enter into the fashion world and showcase their talent to the world.

The evening started with Alok Wasi and Deepak Chaudhary, former contestants of a reality show, singing on various famous Bollywood tracks. Dance performances by Rock and Roll and Hip Hop group added new energy and life to the show.

The event was organised by Albela Event and Marketing (AEM) to promote the upcoming models from Bihar and Jharkhand. For the finale, the contestants were selected in two rounds from among 400 participants on the basis of their beauty, potential, way of presentation and thinking.

Managing Director (MD), AEM,

Mr Manmeet Singh welcomed the judge Shakti Kapoor, popularly known as 'Nandu sab ka pyara bandhu'.

The finale comprised of three rounds, the first one was the introduction, second freestyle round and in the third round the contestants were made to walk as couples sporting bridal wear.

All the contestants performed to their hearts content, but there can be only one winner. Swati Sharma and Siddhartha bagged the title of Dev and Diva for the year 2012. They were awarded a cash prize of Rs 35,000 each and even got the opportunity to act in various ad films that are made under the banner of AEM.

Shakti Kapoor had all praises for the 'badhta and badaita Bihar'. "Lalu Ji ke bhains ki doodh ka koi jawab nahi," he said, adding "Bihar has abundant talent. It just needs a good modelling and acting institute."

AEM Managing Director Mr Manmeet Singh Albela also unveiled the Dev and Diva Institute for modelling and X-facts.



Swati Sharma

POCKET-SIZE FASHION FAD



Kritika Agarwal

High-end designer apparels, once an indulgence of just the one per cent, has found its way down to a population that can't, in some instances, even read a label.

Designers from Armani to Burberry have created pint-sized styles that appeal to both tiny fashionists and their parents. Non-celebrity parents across the globe are seeking similar styles to make their children look glamorous.

According to Mr Nikhil Agarwal, cloth merchant of Lilliput, "As celebrity kids are influencing many every day buying decisions, many companies will be entering into the children's wear market simply to satisfy the consumer's thirst for branded clothes".



"Parents are attracted to designer kid clothes because of their exclusivity. Many parents look for a designer label because it allows them to infuse their personal style into looks that they buy for their children," said Dr Sanjay Srivastava, Director of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

With the upcoming fashion trend and the thirst for branded and stylish apparels, some basic precautions should also be taken while designing kids wear, says Dr. Sanjay Prasad, child specialist. "Designing for children is an incredibly different process than creating clothing for adults. The sizing and body proportions are different. Fabrics and materials must be tested for safety. Children's clothing is checked to ensure that trimmings cannot be removed from the garment. And pieces of clothing must be constructed from flame retardant material," he said.



HEYDAY FOR MODELS IN BIHAR

Modelling is one of the most thrilling as well as lucrative professions. It attracts males and females equally. With the expansion of consumerism and media, there has been a fabulous boost in this industry. This, along with upsurge in fashion industry, has made modelling an attractive career option. It has generated a

large and continuing demand for fresh faces and personalities to launch and promote a variety of branded products or show a garment to its best advantage. Modelling is a glamorous field which offers tremendous opportunities to travel and meet various classes of people. It is a highly paid job. Even with all these plus

points it involves a lot of hard work, dedication and perseverance to be successful. It is a highly competitive and short-lived career. The job also requires a lot of stamina and patience. It is a profession where educational qualifications become insignificant and physical attributes and personal qualities assume importance.

Headway reporters Kritika Agarwal, Sakshi Priya and Samridhi Dikshit catch up with three achievers in Bihar modelling industry

GYAN PRAKASH AGARWAL

Winner of Dev and Diva contest, 2010



What was your first achievement as a model?

I won the Dev and Diva contest in the year 2010 and was also the judge for Dev and Diva contest 2011

Your experience as a model

It feels great. Let me tell you, in my auditions itself I was offered five ads. I was a newcomer, an untrained college going boy, but the best feeling was when I got selected among 250 candidates present there.

How would you define modelling in one word?

Glamorous

Tell us about career in modelling in Bihar

In Bihar there has been an increase in opportunities. Of late, people have started recognising this field and many leading brands have come up in Bihar with their fashion shows. So, doors of opportunities are opening up in Bihar.

In what way are models being exploited?

There is lot of corruption in modelling, especially in Bihar. There have been cases when experienced and deserving models had to work for free.

SANJANA SINGH

Miss Bihar, 2012

Tell us a little about yourself

I am an emotional, honest, funny and simple girl who believes in God.

Who is your role model in life?

My role models are my parents.

Who inspired you to be Miss Bihar?

My parents were my inspiration. They supported me a lot throughout. I am thankful to my parents for their unconditional support.

How do you like to spend your free time?

I generally spend my free time by helping my mother in cooking.

What were your experiences during Miss Bihar training?

Well, my experience was wonderful, it was a great pleasure working with Mr Kaushik (mentor of former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen). I respect him a lot. I learnt a lot while my training.

What is your ambition?

My ambition is to be a part of the glamour world.



ABHINAV SINGH

Mr Bihar, 2008



How did you land up making your career in the modelling industry?

It was just a matter of fact and by God's grace I got good body and height. You can say I started looking handsome, so everyone asked me to give it a chance.

How did you react after winning the title of Mr Bihar?

As it was the first step, it felt great. Everybody wants to be in the limelight and so was I, as my photos were put up in cities and various photo shoots were done.

What were the challenges faced by you as an upcoming model?

Many families do not approve of their children going to this field, since the darker side of this industry is much highlighted. To establish your career firmly in this industry, you need money and good contact. I was oblivious of this fact. But I didn't have to struggle much because my first attempt made me win the title.

What is your view about Wardrobe malfunctioning?

Hmm... This question is pretty difficult for me to answer as I have not been through it. But I think these are used as a factor of promoting the show or something else. The main thing is that how models handle the situation.



where is my freedom of speech?



prish-sc/st/obc corrupt!



are u not..?



Joseph Anton to Banning Verses

karbo-lorbo-jitbo re



doctor doctor help him cure saffron allergy



rape escape mantra guru



Modi-Today! I have power, position... what do you have? Tharur: I have a priceless wife



PATNA WOMEN'S COLLEGE: ITS HISTORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS



○ Patna Women's College (PWC) was founded in 1940 and is conducted by the sisters of the Apostolic Carmel, an indigenous Religious Educational Body founded in 1870

○ The vision of the college is to offer value based higher education to youth through academic pursuit for excellence, community involvement and empowerment of women

○ The objective of this college is to develop a deep faith in god, make the girls confident to rely on themselves and courageously face the challenges

of life, to have forgiving nature, respect for every individual, be loyal to the country and become a successful person in life

○ Patna Women's College completed its 72 years of proud existence in 2012. The majestic building of the College was rated the first wonder of Bihar in a survey conducted by the Times of India in 2012

○ PWC has been awarded 'College with Potential for Excellence' (CPE) status by UGC. It's a NAAC Re-accredited-A grade college

○ There are around 4000 girls studying in different departments of the College. This college offers educations in Arts, Science, Commerce and Vocational courses

○ There are around 200 teachers in the college working in the various departments of the college, there are around 180 non teaching staff, who work hard and help in the management of the college

○ PWC has always been rated A Grade in academics, cultural events, sports and fine arts by NAAC

Compiled by Shivani Sinha

What they say

As I look back in time I remember my precious days spent in the college and my thoughts are filled with warm memories of those wonderful years spent at college dreaming about my future endeavours. Being a complete women's college, it gave me freedom of expression.

MANISHA SINGH
Advocate, Patna HC

Patna Women's College is maintaining high grade educational quality and perfect extra curricular activity to build independent personality and make present day women successful in handling both domestic and social responsibilities.

DR GHANSHYAM JHA
Heart specialist and general physician

It feels really good to see the girls of Patna Women's College following rules, regulations and decorum of their college. PWC has played a major role in providing a positive outlook in the current scenario.

JAYANT KANT
Patna SP

Patna Women's College (PWC) for long has been the face of higher education for women not only in Patna, but perhaps the state of Bihar itself. The sheer size of students being educated at the institute is overwhelming. Although there are quite a few colleges in Patna, what differentiates PWC from all others is the standard of education and discipline and sophistication of students.

MUKESH KUMAR SINHA
Manager, Central Bank of India

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